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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE
NOVEMBER 7, 1994 VOL. 107 NO. 45

CONTENTS

3 EDITORIAL

6 LETTERS

12 OPENING NOTE/PASSAGES

15 COLUMN: DIANE FRANZ

16 CANADA

John Charest's government gets an unexpected gift on its first anniversary in power: a back rowing voters of the exiles of the Midway point, an emotional trail opens in Yellowknife.

19 BACKSTAGE OTTAWA: ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

22 SPECIAL REPORT

24 WORLD

Nervy Gingrich in spending the Republicans' campaign to take control of Congress.

24 BUSINESS

The private sector is spending the government's expense on healthcare costs by opening private clinics.

28 THE NATION'S BUSINESS: PETER C. NEWMAN

32 COVER

37 PEOPLE

40 CRIME

Controlling terms—called the Oldcastle Gang in history of their favorite target—wreck havoc in Regina.

44 ENVIRONMENT

In Britain, wind power has provoked a spitting match within the environmental movement.

46 TELEVISION

Anne Wheeler films a tale of friendship between a white woman and a Japanese-Canadian woman interned during the Second World War.

47 BOOKS

The 1950s and 1960s road-control experiments in Montreal are now the subject of a novel.

51 FILMS

Money Chaplin is on a rail Woody Allen's latest is a thriller, a flawed force about Dr. John Harvey Kellogg.

76 FORTHCOMING

CONTRIBUTORS: Submissions and editorial changes: 416-593-1234. Letters: 416-593-1234. Photo: 416-593-1234. Fax: 416-593-1234. Circulation: 416-593-1234. Classified: 416-593-1234.



Photo: 416-593-1234

Master of the show

52 With two smash musicals—*Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Show Boat*—Toronto impresario Garth Drabinsky is the toast of Broadway. His production of *Phantom of the Opera* and *Show Boat* are huge hits in his home town, a *Show Boat* company is slated for Vancouver, and an authorized biography is in the works. So why is this man depressed?

Debating the numbers

22 Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi takes action as public concern mounts over the rising numbers of newcomers being admitted to Canada, an expert on the controversial operations of the Immigration and Refugee Board.



Photo: 416-593-1234

The price of peace

36 After witnessing the signing of a historic peace agreement between Israel and Jordan, U.S. President Bill Clinton turned his attention to Syria's Hafez al-Assad. But Assad promptly condemned the latest Middle East accord as a betrayal of Arab solidarity—and vowed to hold out for greater concessions.



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LETTERS

Censor censure

We were shocked and dismayed to see the cover of your Oct. 24 issue ("The battle over censorship"). As parents of two young, impressionable boys, we are content to prevent their exposure to violent and sexually explicit material. We believe that you have traded good judgment for sensationalism when you selected your cover photo. Surely, we should not have to censor our children's access to Canada's national newspaper.

Deborah and Paul Spivack
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.

I wonder why the mainstream media and the advertising industry continue to engage in the politically correct but hypocritical double standard of portraying men in ways that would never consider for women. I wonder if the publicity package for the movie *Mr. & Mrs. O'Connell* on her heels and knees with a leather-studded thug Akroyd used her as a toilet!

David Rabinovich
Oakville, Ont.

The jury is out

The Canadian legal profession has rules that address the very sort of conduct about which Allan Fotheringham complains in his Oct. 24 column. The law according to the clearest of lawyers must practice before judges who consistently scrutinize their conduct on these issues. Lawyers are subject to regulation by law societies which may penalize an *advocate* if they act unbecomingly. None of these rules permits lying. Nor does our legal system countenance the sort of media circus that the U.S. Supreme Court has become in the United States. If Fotheringham has complaints about his lawyer, he should call the appropriate law society. If he detests trial by media, he should rejoice that he lives in Canada. I wouldn't think of telling Dr. Path for either piece of good advice.

Thomas G. Hirschman, QC
President, The Canadian Bar Association,
Ottawa

In yet another rant against lawyers, Allan Fotheringham makes three equally credible points: First, he has a friend; second, the friend is a lawyer; and third, that lawyer surely has prosecuted all lawyers he has with the client for a fee. He fails to note that if a lawyer loses a judge, there is an opposing



Akroyd (left), O'Donnell: explicit

lawyer whose duty it is, then and there, to represent him. And judges don't like being lied to.

John Andrew Davy,
St. Catharines, Ont.

As a practicing barrister and former law school lecturer with 40 years' experience, I fully endorse the sentiments expressed by Allan Fotheringham. We, as a profession, have rightfully earned the dubious distinction of being placed in the same category with sky-divers using valisiers and the candy-disperser of the public for all the well-founded reasons delineated by Fotheringham, and far much more. I rest my case.

David F. Newling, QC
Chatham, Ont.

Enduring values

Thanks to Charles Gordon for being willing to take on the sacred cow of multiculturalism. [Another View, Oct. 24]. However, Gordon's preferred solution misses the mark. "Tolerance," he claims, "is the key." Tolerance is a negatively defined value which simply means putting up with what you find distasteful. It also implies that all values are relative and morally equivalent. Maybe it's time to consider the possibility that there are universal principles that are good, right and just, which work to ennobel our civilization and give people moral common ground. It is only when we as a country become loyal to a set of transcendent beliefs or truths that we will remove fear of our differences and appreciate our multicultural makeup.

James Evans,
Thorn Hills, Alta.

The human touch

As a Canadian Forces search-and-rescue technician, a large portion of my work takes place along British Columbia's rugged, alpine coast. Fishermen, loggers, sailors and hikers know that, should they require it, help is only a radio call away. The success of a rescue mission often depends on up-to-the-minute information provided by lifelinekeepers ("Beacon of candour," Life-style, Oct. 20). Despite claims to the contrary, commercial weather stations are not capable of providing highly accurate information. Crews in manned lifeboats go deeper than just the jobs lost; they report on the survivability and the condition of those in distress and the lives of the crews whose job it is to sail from. Unmanned buoys out from the port barrel say just less than nothing.

A.J. Anst
Comberford, B.C.

Old-fashioned comfort from manual light houses may be an essential service, but at what price to a public with empty pockets and an ever-worsening threat of drowning by debt?

Greg Simons,
Coburn, Alta.

A studied link

There is another angle to your "distilled can be healthy" message. ("A drink is a day's Backlog," Oct. 24). Female smokers should be aware that more than one study has linked to cancer consumption to breast cancer in women. At least 60 studies in North America and Europe have probed this idea since doctors began questioning the high rate of breast cancer incidence among alcoholic women in the 1960s. In France and Italy where women traditionally drink more than in North America, research has repeatedly linked alcohol to the risk of breast cancer. The recent heart disease studies raise more questions than answers.

Myra Lucman
Niles, Ont.

The apostle Paul sent a letter to his cohort Timothy, in which he admonished him "Do not drink water. Take a little wine for thy stomach's sake—and for all those who have ailments." (1 Timothy 5:23). An expatriated son your excellent article on the subject Paul is so apt emphasis on the word *little*.

Brenda Sullivan
Adrian, Ont.

My husband's industry motto is "never let anyone ever be called for cheap and cheap. Please supply name, address and telephone numbers." Price: Letters to the Editor. Mailbox, magazine 177 Dun St., Toronto, Ont. M5R 1A7. Or call (416) 596-7230.

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Business praises Hydro's rate freeze

Move called 'step in right direction'

IT'S THE LINE
and POWER WORKERS
for the rate freeze.

Corporate large and small praise
Ontario Hydro's decision
to freeze rates this year and hold
the line for the rest of the year.

Of all the utility
companies in the world,
none of the others
in power has had
the line.

proposing that a line be "frozen" for
the rest of the year.

The TNA, which has helped
Ontario Hydro's decision
to freeze rates since 1988, says
it is on track for a third year
of rate freezes. The line
has been for 1
year.

HYDRO HOLDS THE LINE.

BY THE TORONTO STAR, October 11, 1994

Business hails Hydro rate cut for big firms

'Huge' savings,
economic growth
are predicted

or workers? "Klein told a
forum: "This rate cut
is a major step for the
economy, which will
grow 40 per cent."

By Lawrence
Klein, President
of the
Hydro
and
Power
Workers' Union

AGAIN.

AS YOU MAY HAVE READ, Ontario Hydro is holding the line on rates for 1993. But actually, it's old news. You see, a year ago, we did exactly the same thing (In fact, in 1993, Ontario Hydro's average rate to its direct industrial customers will drop 0.7%, the first time this has happened in almost 30 years.)

So why hold the line an unprecedented two years running? For the simple reason it's what our customers are asking for.

And every one of the more than 20,000 men and women who make up Ontario Hydro are learning how important it is to listen. Every day.

From the person who climbs the pole to fix your power to the person who answers the phone when you have a question.

But holding the line on prices is only one way we're all responding. We've cut operating costs

by at least 25%. And eliminated layers of management. With a new emphasis on accountability and accessibility. And, on working harder and smarter.



By finding more productive ways of working, we're doing what is needed to keep Ontario's economy on track.

ALLAN KUPCIS
PRESIDENT
ONTARIO HYDRO

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Equally important, we've reduced planned capital expenditures by 24 billion dollars over the next ten years. Aggressive numbers, to be sure.

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The bottom line? Stable electricity prices, leading to a more sustainable economy in Ontario. All the while providing the competitive, reliable service you expect.

Holding the line for 1993 means that rates for Ontario Hydro's residential, farm and small business customers as well as municipal electric utilities and distributing companies are frozen. Most large industrial customers will see reduced rates.

In fact, with inflation, this rate freeze means that in real terms the price of electricity has come down.

If you have any questions, please call



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COLUMN



Europe's plan to simplify government

BY DIANE FRANCIS

The exercise now under way in Ottawa by civil servants to "tidy-up" and streamline the central government will yield few results. This is because it is being done by bureaucrats with a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. Instead, Ottawa and the provinces should establish a blue-ribbon committee with the power to restructure Canada using the European concept of "subsidiarity."

The word is torturous, but subsidiarity is a clear-cut policy that aims at rationalizing government layers and eliminating duplication. In essence, it puts the reins on the new super layer of government in Europe—headquartered in Brussels—to prove that it can better handle a portfolio than can the European Community's 12 national governments.

As *The Economist* defines it: "The central government [Brussels] should expect to exercise power only where flows of things or people across borders make it power truly necessary. The principle of subsidiarity would minimize interference from Brussels in the status and authority of national legislatures. The local government has much at its favor. It is better informed about what citizens want and it is more accountable. But centralization may sometimes make sense."

If Brussels can make the case, it assumes prime responsibility. If not, power remains with the member countries. This is an exercise Canada should undertake, given that the country has too many governments, too many government layers and too many tireless power plays between governments.

Europeans invented the concept of subsidiarity in order to juggle the competing demands for centralization by Brussels' bureaucracy versus the jealously guarded power of civil servants working for the 12's member countries. In guiding principles have not been totally applied in Europe, but the concept is a brilliant architecture for streamlining political systems.

In Canada, the focus should be placed on

The word is torturous, but the concept of 'subsidiarity' could make a big difference in how Ottawa and the provinces share power

Ottawa to prove that it should be involved in any portfolio. Conversely, subsidiary does not mean that power moves downward only and never upward. If a city/region can be made to transfer authority to Ottawa from the provinces or to a province from a municipality, then the responsibility should move up.

Following the principle of subsidiarity, Ottawa should not departments or direct services, such as education, health, social services, energy, justice, labour, health, social services, consumer and corporate affairs, culture, education, welfare and fisheries, to name the most obvious. These services are already provided by provincial entities. On the other hand, Ottawa must retain control over the nation's monetary policy, foreign affairs, trade, immigration, citizenship, justice, national security and defence.

These portfolios must be federal for obvious reasons. Foreign governments want to sign treaties with one entity, not with 10 tiny provinces. Under despots must be handled in concert. Immigration policy must be uniform to avoid the possibility that economically declining provinces would open immigration floodgates only to find that most of their new immigrants would end up in Vancouver or

Toronto where opportunities have been greater. Such discrepancies would be unfair to regions that did not want more immigrants, so a prudent policy is necessary.

A dramatically distressed Ottawa is long overdue. But that does not mean a dramatic, one-week Ottawa. In fact, Ottawa should rely in the provinces more than it now does by stopping their free borrowing abroad to the extent that they have. The productivity of provincial resources is lower (dislike and other corruption has led to the frightening foreign indebtedness that has resulted in the dramatic devaluation of our currency).

If continued, this practice will further devalue our dollar, which, in turn, will put more upward pressure on interest rates. Already, an estimated 46 per cent of the collective government indebtedness in Canada of roughly \$700 billion is owed to foreigners. This represents a staggering interest rate bill of an estimated \$16 million per day, or \$28 billion per year.

This is destroying our nation's wealth because these massive interest payments are subject to a withholding tax at only 15 per cent. The remaining income paid to foreigners is taxed by their governments, not ours, and what's left after they have paid taxes is invested or spent in other countries. This is a nation threatening bankruptcy of wealth that is reminiscent in a few out of Canada of \$1 out of every \$24 of wealth generated all year by our entire economy.

That is why Ottawa should exert its muscle by forbidding provinces from borrowing abroad without special permission. It should also like dramatically the withholding tax collected on foreign bond dividends.

The role of tax collector is another question. One possible way to go would be for Ottawa to expand its role as the country's primary corporate and personal income tax collector and become the country's sole consumption tax collector through a national sales tax.

On the other hand, the provinces could do all the collecting and give Ottawa a share of the pie. Number system would prevent governments at either level from establishing their own separate tax levels. The goal should be to eliminate collection and filing costs for taxpayers.

At the same time, a more efficient division of powers in this country is long overdue. The principle of subsidiarity should also be applied at the municipal/provincial levels where duplication also exists, but the biggest waste is at the federal level.

The role of Ottawa should be simply to guarantee the rights of citizenship—that Canadians can live, work or do business anywhere in the country. It should ensure that Canadians have their right to their day in court, their civil rights and government establishments wherever they live. It must also protect the national borders, protect the provinces from leaving the confederation, control immigration and protect the value of our currency.

Just about everything else is better left with the provinces.

Drama in the court

The Giant gold mine murder case goes to trial

Roger Wallace Warren was impressive at the front of a lumbered Yellowknife courtroom last week as Crown prosecutor Peter Martin revealed that the 30-year-old former hard rock miner had confessed to one of the biggest mass

murders in Canadian history. Martin told a Northwest Territories Supreme Court jury that they will hear an indictment on which Warren describes as police hero, in the early hours of Sept. 30, 1992, he planted the bomb that killed nine miners who had defied a fear

month-old strike at Yellowknife's Giant gold mine. They will also, said Martin, see a videotape in which Warren, who was one of 200 unemployed miners on strike, takes police down the mine shaft and reconstructs his account of that fateful night. But two days later, during cross-examination of a police witness Warren's lawyer, Glen Gerns, signalled that he intends to challenge the veracity of the taped confession. "The defence is that these are lies, are untrue," said Gerns.

These dramatic statements by the opposing counsel set the stage for a trial that may finally explain the tragedy that has cast a pall over Yellowknife, a city of 30,000 located on the fringed shores of Great Slave Lake, 960 km north of Edmonton. The strike that was the backdrop for the last bombing tore the once close-knit community apart. With the help of 150 replacement workers and about 40 unemployed miners who crossed the picket lines, the owner of the Giant mine, Royal Oak Mines Inc., kept its business running. But that sparked an uncharacteristic wave of violence, including riots on the picket lines, death threats against replacement workers and schoolyard scraps between children of striking miners and children of those who were working.

Disunity turned into mutual distrust almost exactly one year ago when Warren, who had worked closely with many of the bombing victims, was charged with nine counts of first-degree murder. And last week, as the Crown began to lay out its case against Warren—who has pleaded not guilty to all counts—some of the evidence was too much for the victim's relatives to hear. At one point, the jury was shown a short videotape that revealed some of the carnage at the bomb site, including glimpses of mangled body parts. As the images began to appear, Carol Riggs, whose 27-year-old son Shane was among the victims, suddenly gasped, put her hand up to shield her face and fled the courtroom. She was quickly followed by Judith Proulx, whose husband Josef, 35, was also among the dead.

In his remarks to the jury, Martin described how Warren allegedly entered the mine at about 2 a.m. after the night shift had finished working. Martin said Warren then descended to a tunnel 120 feet underground, where he placed a homemade bomb that was attached to a length of fishing line set up to be triggered by a moving mining car. According to Martin, Warren left the mine at about 6 a.m. About three hours later, a mine car triggered the line, setting off an explosion that blasted far more miners against the mine's walls, killing them, said Martin, "in a blink of an eye."

For the families of the dead miners, the trial is the latest chapter in a two-year-old ordeal. Proulx seemed to speak for most of them when she told Martin's that she could not wait for the trial to end—so that she could leave Yellowknife "and never look back."

BURTON BERGMAN with LOUI SAUNDY
in Yellowknife

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CANADA

The China syndrome

A ndrew, a lot for those who want to think like a capitalist of Canadian industry. You have drifted from your cozy little nest on Bay Street,



BACKSTAGE OTTAWA

Dr. ANTHONY WATSON SMITH

that Canada is overvalued, overregulated, has an unsupportably high debt load and is a stumble place to do business. Where to go? Of course, go at once to an island of new economic hope and financial glory—where the official inflation rate hovers around 35 per cent, about 33 per cent of workers are unemployed or underemployed and the state-owned sector accounts for about half of annual industrial output. More exciting news: the state of the present political leadership is uncertain, and the level of public security conscious that the law-enforcement problems are "extremely grim." But despite that, the government thinks that as foreign investors should earn a return of more than 10 per cent.

Never let it be said that Canada's business leaders are not flexible thinkers. Later this week, 320 of the same business people who recently accused Prime Minister Jean Charest of harping Canada's debt will come to prove him—and the business opportunities they think they see ahead—on the Team Canada government charter abroad in China. With nine partners in tow (all except British Columbia's Michael Harcourt are in travel) with Charest on the same plane, it is an even bigger expedition than the 240 business people that then-Prime Minister Brian Mulroney took with him to Moscow in 1989. Hopefully, it will also be more successful. With much better, more than 30 business accounts were signed during that trip. Few of any consequence survive today, or made the investors any money while they were in operation.

To be sure, some conditions differ. By the late 1980s, the Soviet economy was in a wretched decline. China, by contrast, has averaged nine per cent growth per year in its gross domestic product in the past decade. Its economy, at present rates, will double in the next 10 years. And Canada, despite a \$140-billion trade deficit with China last year, has dramatically increased exports in recent years. In 1986, only 30 per cent of exports to China were manufactured goods

and this year, that figure was already up to 30.52 billion.

But there is at least one other disturbing similarity with the 1989 trip for potential investors. In Moscow, Canadian businessmen signed contracts that they acknowledged, covered only the hope of anticipated, long-term profits in return for immediate cash investments. Far away in China, few foreign investors other than the Taiwanese make a profit.

Will Canada be the exception? "China and Canada," a news release from the Canada-China Business Council declares, "are constitutional countries and face similar problems of development." Well, so Canada, at least look, does not have 10 million young people entering the workforce every year, 50 million people working in redundant jobs in state-owned enterprises or senior officials planning the economy whose only business is toasting often

comes from afar for a Soviet university. And Charest, despite his reluctance to be seen very often on television, is a regular camera hog compared with China's leader, 80-year-old Deng Xiaoping, who has not appeared publicly in more than a year. There have been signs recently in Beijing that Jia Zemin, the economy minister who is Deng's choice to succeed him, may not manage to do so. If that is the case, no one can tell whether the next leader will continue opening up the economy and the country, or return China to isolation.

On the eve of their next expedition abroad, the only sure bet is that Canada's are about to invest significant political, financial and moral capital in a country whose future is even more uncertain than its tumultuous present and sometimes bloody past. The great revolution of China, Mao, Tse-tung, was born from "the contradictions between imperialism and the Chinese nation, and the contradiction between feudalism and the great masses of the people." Inevitably, inevitably, fortunately, no one from Bay Street would ever have any of those thoughts.



A few words about Canada's vacation capital...



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Canada NOTES

TAKING BACK A PLUM

After a week of intense political pressure, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein revoked the Oct. 21 appointment of his former deputy premier, Ken Kowalski, to the \$115,000-a-year post as chairman of the Alberta Utilities and Energy Board. The plum portfolio appointment had been loudly criticized by both the old politics and the Opposition Liberals, who insisted that it violated rules requiring a six-month cooling-off period before a cabinet minister can be given a government job.

A GRISEY DISCOVERY

Police officers found human bones in a densely wooded area of south-east New Brunswick near the recently discovered clashing of a 54-year-old girl who has been missing for one year. The police said they believe that the bones belong to Marie LeBlanc, whose teenage boyfriend was found dead in his truck last November after the couple attended a party. There was no sign of LeBlanc at the time.

LAGGING BEHIND

A new study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* said that Canadian heart patients are slower to return to work than American patients and do not feel as good a year after their attack. The joint Canadian-U.S. study suggested that more aggressive American treatment after strokes may improve the quality of a heart patient's recovery.

A DISAPPOINTING VICTORY

Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau announced a disappointing result after Parti Québécois candidate Roger Pigeon beat out Liberal Michel Charbonneau by a 53-to-47 vote margin in a by-election in the Marston area riding of St. Jean. Parizeau said he had hoped for a larger majority and that the results show the PQ will have to redouble its efforts if it wants to win the referendum on Quebec's independence that has been promised to hold next year. The two candidates had to square off for a second time after a judicial record showed that they had deposited at least 5,524 false votes in the Sept. 12 provincial election.

THE VALUE OF READING

A province-wide assessment of Grade 6 students in Ontario found that youngsters who had stories read to them when they were growing up tended to outperform those who did not. Anne Wilson, president of the Ontario Teachers' Federation, said the findings showed that "children who don't read or who aren't in the practice of being read to by age 14 won't suffer that."



Kachura and his wife, Leobylka, arriving at Redoubt Hall in Ottawa for a reception.

Playing on old-country ties

On his first foreign trip since becoming president of Ukraine in July 1994, Kachura travelled through the Canadian Prairies, where so many of his countrymen settled over the past century. The high light of the tour was supposed to be a 6-7 conference at Winnipeg's widely first Gary Bisset, who was born in Ukraine. Kachura's belongings were seized—and Foreign Affairs Minister Andre Gauthier was set to announce that Ottawa would give about \$50 million to Ukraine to help it turn a long-overlooked economy and to deal with the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident.

But Ottawa's generosity towards Ukraine did not sit well with about 500 Indians, who forced their way into the hotel lobby. Chanting and beating drums, the natives demanded the right to address the politicians about their problems. Declared protest leader Louis St-Onge, chief of Manitoba's Progress band. "We have to question why assistance is a large, resource-rich, industrialized nation [Ukraine]... seems more important than ending Indian dependency and child poverty in Canada." The protest broke up peacefully after a short time when the group was told the politicians had already left the hotel. Kachura's other appearance proved somewhat controversial during a tour that also took him to Ottawa and Toronto. In Edmonton, he

tried to cut through his country's red tape in a bid to make Ukraine more friendly towards foreign investors. "There is only one way of fighting the businessmen—and fire them," Kachura said after addressing a local business group. He also discussed investment opportunities during a meeting with Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow in Saskatoon. "We had a good discussion about the possibility of assisting Ukraine in the areas of energy, agriculture and health care," Romanow said later. The premier, who is of Ukrainian descent, also stressed the need to preserve cultural links between Saskatchewan and Ukraine.

A sliding scale

In a landmark 7-0 ruling, the Supreme Court of Canada declared that parents who have disavowed or separated can be ordered to increase their child support payments if their earnings increase markedly. But in the written decision, Justice John Sopinka cautioned that children who are already being maintained at a high standard may not necessarily benefit from their parent's wealth. Sopinka also said that parents whose income drops may be allowed to reduce their payments. "When the arrival of parents are limited," he wrote, "the children's needs may be satisfied by the bare necessities."

Debating the numbers

Ottawa acts to dampen public concern over immigration

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

It is an occupation in which you know one another as much as what you think, the walls of Immigration and Citizenship Minister Sergio Marchesi's fifth-floor Parliament Hill office provide eloquent testimony to his political prowess. Among others, there are photographs of Marchesi alongside Jean Chrétien in the early 1980s, and with John Turner during his time as Liberal leader in the last half of the decade. They are reminders that the 58-year-old Marchesi, despite being the youngest member of the prime minister's cabinet, is a 30-year veteran of the House of Commons who is recognized by his peers as being one of the Liberal party's most vocal political animals. "Sergio," says a cabinet colleague with careful irony, "is one of those people who can listen to two completely contrasting opinions, and then make both sides feel he listens completely with them."

That is no small feat in a portfolio that now, more than ever, arouses powerful and conflicting emotions. Marchesi, through much of his first year in office, appeared aloof at either meeting or publicly stepping around public concerns over topics ranging from the levels of illegal immigration in Canada, to crime rates and use and abuse of the country's social programs by immigrants. But recently he has faced a series of embarrassing revelations about the department and its policies. Those included his admission last week that inspectors this year will pay \$750 million in welfare costs for immigrants whose families failed to meet sponsorship commitments on their behalf. At the same time, an internal finance department study suggested that present immigration policies are directly responsible for the fact that the labor force is growing more quickly than the country's ability to create jobs. As well, there are the increasingly controversial opinions of the Immigration and Refugee Board, which one backprofile, recently departed member described last week as "a complete and utter mess" (page 28). Still, Marchesi claims to be undazed. "In this job, it



Marchesi at a market in Ottawa: the level of anger is bound to increase

he said in an interview with *Maclean's*, "somebody is going to be mad at you all of the time."

One way or another, the level of anger will increase this week when Marchesi (who himself came to Canada from Argentina as a young child) releases what he describes as Canada's first-ever comprehensive 30-year plan on immigration. "Immigration is a long-term issue that we have been approaching until now on a short-term basis," says. It is also an issue that arouses conflicting opinions among Marchesi's own caucus colleagues and some of his policy advisers. The main points include Canada's overall annual level of immigration—which, on a per capita basis, has been easily the highest in the world in the past decade—and the types of immigrants included in that total. Others include questions about policies that at times appear to either unfairly benefit or restrict non-Canadians. As Marchesi put the final touches on his new policy last week, Marchesi's learned that the number was likely to increase.

• A reduction of the 1994 target of 250,000 immigrants to a 1995 total of between 190,000 and 215,000. That reduction, however, may be only on paper, since about 320,000 visas are granted as expected to arrive this year. Even so, assuming a 10-year plan, Marchesi was not expected to supply specific numbers for the total of total of immigrants beyond next year.

• A reduction of the number of family reunification immigrants—who also account for well over half the total—and a heightened definition of who can qualify. Informal speculation centered on possible new limits on who qualifies as family, and on not extending the right of open sponsorship to those who are usually sponsored themselves. The latter category, which now accounts for more than half of the total, will drop to about 44 per cent.

• "Visaless" efforts to encourage provinces and professional associations to make it much easier for foreign-trained engineers to practice in such fields as law, medicine, architecture and engineering.

• Changing the structure of the point system currently used to rate prospective immigrants in the "independent" category. Critics say there is now too much emphasis on specific job skills and not enough on important attributes for adaptability such as fluency in French or English, and overall academic and job experience. To focus criticism, Marchesi says, "There, we will make changes." English or French fluency will be given much greater importance.

• "Aggressive" efforts to crack down on abuses of the sponsorship program that have led to the \$700-million welfare shield.

These steps will expose Marchesi to fierce and conflicting criticism. The Reform party, for example, wants the annual immigration figure lowered to 150,000—a figure that, on a per capita basis, would still rank among the highest in the world. The United States, with a population roughly 11 times that of Canada, took in one million immigrants last year. "All of our problems over immigration have come in the last 10 years, when the annual figure got above that level," said Art Hanger, Reform's immigration critic. "History shows that is the maximum we can

accommodate without undue strain." A series of recent opinion polls shows that most Canadians also want the figure sharply reduced. But there is also strong opposition from many ethnic groups and analysts to keep the present total. "It would be very, very disappointing if Marchesi caved in to the opposition," said Morton Weisfeld, a McGill University sociology professor who has advised the government on immigration issues. "Immigration policy not only reflects a nation's values, but shapes them. What kind of a message are we sending out if we cut the numbers and suggest to immigrants that, in effect, we want them but not their parents?"

In fact, Marchesi, while generally playing the role of the government's leading cheerleader on the merits of immigration, has often been seen conflicting messages over how newcomers should be treated. At various times, he has endorsed or promised—and then backed away from—schemes for prospective immigrants ranging from mandatory identity cards and lie detector tests to compulsory HIV testing and deportation of immigrants with offensive criminal records to keep the investment provinces happy. His frequent vows to get tough on violent crimes committed by illegal immigrants have not, so far, been matched by equivalent action. On these issues and others, said Reform's Hanger, "the minister likes to play it making tough-sounding promises and then does nothing to make them come true."

In some ways, Marchesi's sometimes conflicting stances typify the uncertainty that exists among Canadians on so many aspects of the immigration debate. The economic and social issues involved in defining policy are complex, and the conclusions about the impact of immigration on the labor market depend on which part of the country is being studied. Not even the federal government's own advisers appear able to agree on the philosophical starting point—the relative size that Canadians born in the country and new arrivals have with each other.

Last week, Marchesi invited 30 groups of immigration experts to produce recommendations on different aspects of policy. Their findings often bore little relation to one another. One document, for example, described Canada as "an open, dynamic and caring country" whose immigration program is based on the "fundamental principles of the country we are." One of these principles, the document says, is that "Canadians continue to believe in the positive attributes of ethnic, racial and religious diversity."

But a document produced by another group said this: "One of the realities encountered by immigrants especially those... in ethnic enclaves, is racism, manifested as prejudicial attitudes of individuals and as differential treatment by social institutions." As a result, that document concluded, Canadians should be compelled to become more accepting of immigrants through such measures as mandatory employment and training programs in business and education centers in schools.

But rather than such steps, some of the most fundamental problems and complaints facing Marchesi's department appear to be a result of bureaucratic slowness and unwillingness to



change, and Canada's age-old difficulties of competing federal and provincial jurisdictions. One area that Marchi would most like to change, but that will cause him some of his greatest difficulties, is in the process described as "accreditation" of immigrants. That amounts to the licensing of professionals in Canada who all have earned extensive experience from fields abroad.

Right now, most of the licensing of professionals is done by either provinces or professional associations. That can mean, for example, that a foreign trained doctor can be told by a provincial medical association that he or she must study medicine at a Canadian university for several years before being allowed to write standard examinations. In fact, there is often a waiting list at these universities. As a result, Marchi said, "We have excellent doctors working as nurses, and nurses who can't qualify to work at all, even as some areas of the country are screaming for additional help."

Some other problems within Marchi's own department could, critics complain, be solved easily enough if the will exists. Canada's family-reunification sponsorship program is one such case. The only financial criterion for a potential sponsor is that he or she must have an annual income of more than the poverty level of \$883.61.

Sponsors are not asked for the size of their assets and are even accepted if they are receiving unemployment insurance. A sponsor is then asked to sign a pledge guaranteeing that the sponsored immigrant will not receive welfare or government-paid health services for the next five years. But immigrants who did not abide by that pledge and who failed to meet their commitments to pay for the benefits they received—amounting for that \$700-million welfare shortfall. To avoid that, critics suggest the immigration department create two new conditions for sponsors: force them to post a bond they would forfeit if those they sponsored did not keep their pledge, and require the assets, rather than the income, of sponsors.

Another problem that Marchi settled earlier this year involved restrictions placed on refugees after their arrival. A study conducted in British Columbia between 1989 and 1991 showed that foreign-born people represented four per cent of those who collected welfare payments while foreign-born people overall make up 22 per cent of the province's population. Of that four per cent, almost all were refugees under the law, while Marchi had the law changed in January, were forbidden from working until their cases were resolved.



Chinatown in Toronto
"What kind of message are we sending out?"



Chinatown in Toronto
"What kind of message are we sending out?"

schools in metropolitan centres to the language difficulties of some immigrant children affect the learning process in the regular classroom."

These factors lead some, such as Helen's Hanger, to argue that the government should place a much higher priority on the ability to speak English or French among prospective immigrants. Others suggest that with the costs of ESL programs skyrocketing, immigrants should be obliged to carry a significant burden of the cost. One solution suggested by economist Don DeVente of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., would be to allow immigrants to post a bond equal to the amount they would otherwise be obliged to invest in a business. The bond would be held by a provincial government enterprise for five years, after which the principal would be returned to the investor. The interest would be used to help finance ESL programs.

Some of the confusion arises from the difficulty in evaluating the direct impact of immigration. On a national level, most studies show that the effect of immigration is neutral on a large economy such as Canada's, and that there is no evidence to lack an increased population with unrestricted wealth. One study by DeVente, is published this month, confirms findings that are likely to lead accusations both to advocates of high immigration rates and to those who argue against the need for such measures in employment-equity programs to help immigrants integrate.

That study, prepared for Toronto's C.D. Howe Institute, concludes that

There are other strains and costs, such as those associated with language training. The federal government initially paid about \$100 million under the language instruction for New comers to Canada program last year, but later cut \$20 million from that to transfer to other programs. That cut came despite staggering increases in the number of newcomers who need language training. Of the 240,000 immigrants who came to Canada last year, 139,000—44 per cent—could speak neither English nor French. In British Columbia, for example, the number of adults enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses has increased several hundredfold in some areas. In Richmond, the number of students needing ESL training increased from 175 in 1985 to 8,500 last year. In the Greater Vancouver area, 48 per cent of elementary and secondary school students now need ESL assistance. That has caused other difficulties. One of the 10 working groups that Marchi appointed concluded last summer that "tensions have surfaced in



What do you see? Age or beauty?



10% or 100%?



Mammal or insect?

overall, immigrants earn less than native-born Canadians in their first 10 to 12 years in Canada—but then go on to earn more during the course of their lives. DeVore, who is often consulted by the federal government on immigration issues, used recent census data to compare income and asset levels of immigrants and native-born Canadians. His findings suggest that immigrants—after an initial adjustment period of settling into a new economic environment, integrate into social structures—do not lose the “systemic racism” that some of March’s advisers allege they encounter. As well, by the age of 50, immigrants usually have a net worth that is more and tend to save more money than native-born Canadians. At the end of their lives, typically they can leave a bequest to their children that is 2% below the average of other Canadians.

But, these are long-term benefits, and DeVore and other economists concede that short-term results often produce different and less encouraging feelings. Almost all studies in Canada that the only guarantee of immigrants having a positive effect on the economy is if the number of refugees and family reunification cases is below 50 per cent of the total. That has not been the case for a decade. And because of the differences in the kinds of immigrants that Canada accepts, immigration can have varied effects on the economy and society of different regions.

In Toronto, for example, “there is no question that high immigration has created negative and positive impacts in recent years,” said DeVore. But, he added, “in British Columbia, there is equally no question that immigration has had a positive effect on the economy.” That is because British Columbia’s main growth sectors have been more heavily impacted by immigrants in recent years. By contrast, according to federal government figures, about one in 14 of Toronto’s immigrants fits into those categories. More than half of Toronto’s 71,000 immigrants in 1990 were refugees or part of the family reunification program, whose income and professional qualifications are usually substantially less.

There are some of the key economic issues. On other topics, such as the long-term effects of changing immigration patterns on Canadian society, the result is even more difficult to measure, and the debate much more emotional. Members of Parliament from urban areas—where almost all immigrants settle—say that immigration questions usually rank higher first or second in the topics of discussion with constituents. Those concerns range from the language—such as frustration with red tape in processing immigration claims—in many instances that the government is not acting quickly enough to deport illegal immigrants to general, said March’s caucus colleague, Toronto-area MP Thomas Wappel, people believe there is “a failure to enforce certain regulations and

People believe there is ‘a failure to enforce regulations and responsibilities’



Photo by G. G. G. G.

Democratization against racism in Toronto: racism thing

That legislation will affect, according to the party’s first Book of election promises, the federal police service, sponsors and commissions, and give the Canadian Human Rights Commission the power to investigate employment-equity cases.

That legislation will be introduced by Treasury Board President Art Eggleton and Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Marcel Masse. For his part, Masse says, “I don’t think it is for our department to get into the employment-equity business. I think it is for our department to do a couple of things, such as a lot more co-ordination with the provinces.” He also wants to see Canadians over to his own workable belief that immigration form “a collective gift to ourselves for the future.” For now, most Canadians still appear to agree the real debate will centre on whether March has chosen the proper size and composition of that gift.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

certain responsibilities, and that undermines people’s confidence in the system.”

Another area of concern is federal and provincial laws that are enacted separately from each other but which, taken together, can have a profound impact on many people. For example, Ontario’s employment-equity law obliges companies to make efforts to ensure that their staff composition reflects as closely as possible the composition of the province’s population. But it is only within the past 11 years that immigration levels have reached an annual average of one per cent of the overall population—which has resulted in the most widespread changes ever in the composition of the Canadian population.

So far, there has been little collaboration between the two governments—or anyone else—to measure the combined effects on the workplace of employment equity and large-scale immigration. Despite that, liberal sources told *Maclean’s* last week that the federal government plans later this year to introduce employment equity legislation at the federal level.



Then this...





Former refugee board member Bauer: 'A big reason for me to get out was that I was living that emotion and starting to suffer from compassion fatigue'

Is Canada a soft touch?

Refugee acceptance rates skyrocket

It's the beginning it seemed like a perfect professional marriage. In 1989, 60-year-old Bauer retired from the external affairs (now foreign affairs) department after a 37-year career that included stints as ambassador to Korea and Thailand and his final position as ambassador-at-large to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Two years later, Bauer, now 68, was appointed a member of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) in Toronto. That position involves holding the legitimacy of claims by refugee applicants seeking to live in Canada. After his many years abroad, Bauer said, "I thought I could bring a particular expertise to the work." He began in June, 1991, and was reappointed to a new term a year and a half later. But last May, five months before that term was to expire, Bauer was shown that name from consideration for reappointment to the 985,000th year point. The atmosphere at the board he explained, had become "toxic." Said Bauer: "It is a complete and utter open [where] the only end goal is to accept as many applications as possible."

That emotion, not surprisingly, is denied by senior IRB officials. "That is simply not true," said Michael Scheele, the deputy chairman of the board's chain of refugee claims. "What is most important to the board is that judgments be sound, whether they are positive or negative." But it is true that since Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi took over the portfolio last November, the acceptance rate has increased dramatically. Last year, Canada accepted 25,000 refugees, including 12,600 who landed in Canada. This year, the figure is expected to be 25,000 refugees, including 15,000 landing here. The difference is most striking in the percentage of accepted applications: that figure rose from 40 per cent last year to 50 per cent in the first four months of this year. Some board members suspect that new figures to be completed later this month will reflect an even higher rate. In the two Toronto offices where the most on-site trials take place, members estimate the acceptance rate at about 50 per cent.

That is an issue because critics say that as the screening mechanism for refugees loosens, the number of illegal or controversial claimants grows. Already this year, there have been a series of controversies involving the IRB's sister body, the Immigration Appeal Board, which determines whether rejected claimants should be jailed while they await further appeals. In several cases this year, the appeal board has released people previously convicted of violent crimes who then went on to commit new offences. Now, there are concerns that the IRB, through looser rules and misguided legal assistance, is unwittingly encouraging abuses. In a Federal Court ruling on a refugee case last week, Judge Francis Maldoon issued a scathing criticism of Marchi's decision to appeal a refugee application that the IRB had rejected. Marchi, he said, should respect the IRB's decision because "the minister, a politician, is not the one with the immigration expertise." Maldoon also said the immigration department appears to have an "impossibly high-barred but well-lit road" of who would be a refugee.

In another case last week, an IRB appeals board allowed a family of immigrants in southern British Columbia who collected more than \$100,000 in unemployment benefits over the past five years to sponsor the more relatives to join them. The board also approved immigration to Canada of a woman whose husband illegally collected unemployment insurance while he was in India. There are also concerns that immigrants offend, or their relatives, are being allowed in as refugees. One local example is the wife of Somali warlord Gen. Mohamed Farah Aidid, who has withdrawn Ottawa while he remains in Somalia.

One key reason for the increased acceptance rate appears to be the fact that Marchi, after coming to office, replaced previous appointees to the board—many of whom had ties with the former Progressive Conservative governments—with new members, many with long histories of involvement with refugees, human rights and ethnic groups. "There is no province of protection on the board any more," says Art Heinger, immigration critic for the Reform party. "All



is an Oldsmobile.

It's called Oldsmobile. It's what you get when you demand the best.

of these people start out with an established pro-access stance."

Das example he cites is Schriber, a former president of the Canadian branch of the human rights organization Amnesty International. March reported Schriber to the FBI last year. Other oppositionists in the same period include several former immigration lawyers, a former vice-president of the Canadian Council for Refugees, a former religious co-ordinator with Amnesty International and a former executive director of the Canadian Ethnical Council. March demands his names. "We put names people in the board who know something about refugees. We can't just be putting our heads in the sand. If people know this stuff, I also hope they know when a refugee is not a refugee," that that, critics say, is not the way things have worked. The effect, says Das, is that the list has been transformed from an independent arbitration panel into a place where "it is made clear to the members that a low acceptance rate will weigh heavily against responsibility." The entire process is membership-driven. "Schriber denies that assertion."

Even without such appointments, the system is heavily weighted to give

refugee applicants repeated representation to make their case successfully. Individual cases are heard in front of panels made up of two members. Approval of an application requires the consent of only one member, while a refusal must be agreed upon by both members. If the judgment is in favor of the applicant, the members do not have to give reasons for that decision. In a refusal, the members, who often have no legal training, must write a judgment dropped in with a legal appeal to the Federal Court. The applicant, represented by an immigration lawyer paid for by legal aid, can apply for leave to appeal to the court. If that is refused, the rejected applicant's case is automatically considered for appeal within the department,



Religious claimsants awaiting hearings either say limited members are biased

which decides whether the person should be accepted on the grounds that having her deportation would result in "significant personal risk." At any time, the minister can also step in to allow an application on "extraordinary or humanitarian grounds." One result of all that, says Das, is that it "becomes catch, much more to go along and say 'yes'" at the start.

The problem, says Das, is that under the present system, "it is almost impossible to check whether a claimant is lying, because of the constraints imposed." Earlier this year, refugee hearing officers—the immigration department employees who collect information on applicants—were given new orders severely restricting the methods they could use. They were told, among other things, to collect information only from public sources such as libraries. They could not call police departments in other countries to see if applicants had criminal records. They were forbidden from checking applicants' documents for authenticity, or from ensuring consistency by checking their statements against what they said upon arrival. After a series of complaints, some of these restrictions have been loosened.

Another problem is that the IRB, because of a heavy backlog, often "expedite" or "fast-track" certain claims. A hearing officer meets with an applicant and his or her lawyer for about 20 minutes to assess the reasons for the claim. If the applicant convinces the officer that he or she is from one of a select list that includes certain religious, political or ethnic groups, the applicant may be accepted without even having to attend a formal hearing.

That list, prepared by the IRB, includes groups from 27 countries. In several instances, it recommends fast-tracking applications from members of groups who are sworn enemies of each other. It also includes sympathizers of the groups causing persecution. For Peru, for example, the department describes members of the police and army and the Shining Path rebel group as "agents of persecution," it then goes on to list, under the category of "persons at risk," both "persons suspected by the authorities of helping the Shining Path" and "persons suspected by the Shining Path of helping the authorities." Similarly, in Sri Lanka, the department says that members of "Tamil militant

groups are 'agents of persecution,'" but recommends acceptance of all "young Tamil" males aged 10 to 40 or 45 years old. "People listed as being at risk are isolated, says the board, to qualify for the expedited process. In other words, says Das, "you are among the acceptance process for precisely the groups of people who need the most attention."

That is, March conceded, "room for reform in the IRB." He and his critics appear to agree on the need to avoid turning the image of legitimate refugees with controversy over illegal claimants. "When I came into this job, the feeling of saying 'no loans' to someone I knew to be a true refugee seeking new hope here was the best feeling in the world," said Das. "A big reason for me to get out was that because of all the other stuff, I was losing that emotion and starting to suffer from resignation fatigue." No one on either side of the debate wants that to be her own colleague.

ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH in Ottawa

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Looming conflicts

A.B.C. town copes with tensions over immigration

Earlier this year Donna Bender did something that helped place Abbotsford, B.C., in an entirely new light. She organized a display of twentieth-century photographs that traced the pioneer days of the farming community, some 60 km east of Vancouver. The faded photos showed not the Portuguese faces so often associated with the birth of Abbotsford, but rather the beards and turbans of another group of immigrant farmers—the Sikhs. The novel exhibit clearly lit a chord among those at the Matsqui-Abbotsford Museum Society that month was double the usual figure. Bender, the museum's community liaison officer, said she wanted to bring a rich heritage to the attention of mainstream society. "There is a legacy of immigration in Abbotsford," she said. "But there are obstacles out there in the community."

For the Sikhs, who make up about 25 per cent of the Abbotsford area's 140,000 population, the museum's attempt at cross-cultural bridge-building was a small step in the right direction. The national debate over immigration remains, particularly hotly in Abbotsford. Local Bikers and Ready White are an outspoken supporter of tightening up entry requirements for immigrants, especially refugees. Meanwhile, individuals last week that immigration Minister Sergio Marchi was about to restrict family-class immigrants were causing consternation among the Sikhs. Such news prompts, they say, major up the walls of Indo-Canadian newcomers to the district and are not the local Biker farming industry—the area's economic mainstay. "People don't really understand what's at stake," says Margaret Grewal, a Sikh and multicultural coordinator at the nonprofit Matsqui-Abbotsford Community Services agency. "The potential for social conflict is great."

Located in verdant farmland just a few minutes' drive from the U.S. border, Abbotsford is a community in transition. On Nov. 26 it will celebrate with neighboring Matsqui—and together they will comprise the fastest-growing municipality in the Lower Mainland. The district has long been perceived as a bastion of conservatism and autonomy and it has more churches per capita than any other place in Canada, a fact recognized by *The Guinness Book of Records*. But it has also long been home to diverse cultures, including Sikhs, Mennonites of German and Russian extraction, and descendants of Dutch and English settlers. Over the past decade, Vietnamese and Laotians have joined the mix.

But most recently it is the Sikhs who have been smoldering their cloud, buying up heavy farms and becoming active participants in



Pupils of the Punjabi school in Abbotsford: Integration



Pupils of the Punjabi school in Abbotsford: Integration

the local trading, construction and retail industries. And in a volatile market, many say that they are the targets of resentment. One individual lowered by wealthy Sikhs is widely known as "Hindu Whigger"—a nickname in more ways than one since Sikhs are not Hindus. Other stereotypes persist. One, says Grewal, is that Sikh farm workers are involved in widespread unemployment fraud. "It's not saying that everyone is innocent," says Grewal, but she complains that colored coats are being singled out for the entire community.

Dave Kuehl, who moved to the area in 1945 and is now mayor of Matsqui, agrees that most Sikhs are hardworking and honest. At the same time, Kuehl denounces the redneck label sometimes attached to the district. "This is a conservative but caring community," he says. "We don't have discrimination. But there is a community that doesn't." Some Sikhs, including those Grewal, a prominent rangy farmer, play down talk of prejudice. One Grewal says Sikhs "are accepted in the community at large. There has been resentment, but it's starting to disappear."

Still, there is little doubt that there could be "more mixing," as Grewal puts it. One attempt to break down these barriers is the Punjabi Punjabi school, which opened in 1986. Principal Daljit Singh Gill says that the school's mission is to "help our children to understand and teach the values of their heritage." Funded jointly by the province and local Sikhs, the curriculum—from kindergarten to Grade 7—is taught in English, but there are also lessons in Punjabi and Punjabi. Gill also encourages visits from church groups and interfaith schools to help foster mutual understanding. With the tensions facing the Abbotsford area these days, there cannot be too much of that.

ROBIN ARIZZO in Abbotsford

Pride and prejudice

An immigrant author says multicultural policy creates ethnic ghettos

Montreal-based novelist Michel Bissonnette likes to tell the story of how far he's come since he arrived in Canada a couple of years ago in a citizenship conference in Ottawa, where he was giving a speech. Following his talk—in which the Trinidadian-born star reported his outraged view that Canada's policy of official multiculturalism has served only to create ethnic ghettos—one of the federal officials took to the microphone to challenge Bissonnette. He told him, he was "slow" but should just "sit up" because all he was doing was "encouraging racism, like the Reform party." A laugh fell on the room. Bissonnette replied, "Because it occurred to everyone that what we had here was a federal government telling a Canadian to sit up."

The Ottawa official clearly chose the wrong man to try to silence. At the signing of his publisher, the acclaimed 39-year-old novelist (*A Canal for Us*), The *Business of Art* signed to venture into the realm of polemic sociology. The result is the provocatively titled *Selling Illusions: The Cost of Multiculturalism in Canada*. Released last month, the book is selling briskly. Bismontette, an immigrant who grew up in the country giving readings and appearing on open-house programs (he is to tour Western Canada this week), the author has become the local guru of a polemic—and polarizing—debate over how immigrants and so-called "ethnic Canadians" should integrate into the larger society. "It's here remarkable," Bissonnette told *Maclean's* following a reading at McGill University in Montreal. "This book seems to be giving people permission to say in public what they've been thinking in private for a long time."

In *Selling Illusions*, Bissonnette discusses the federal multicultural-



Bissonnette in Montreal, a local point for Canada's polemic and polarizing debate over multiculturalism

ism policy, introduced by Pierre Trudeau's Liberal government in 1971, as a cynical "instrument to attract ethnic votes." According to Bissonnette, the policy—and the refusal of scholars that flowed from it to fund ethnic organizations and activities—have encouraged a generation of immigrants to believe that when they came from a more important place where they have settled. And instead of adapting to the shared values of Canadians, he contends, many immigrants have insisted on bringing the hostilities and prejudices of their homelands to Canada. "The psychology and politics of multi-culturalism," he writes, "have made diversities in the name of racial and ethnic rights socially acceptable. They have given legitimacy here to what was once displayed in racially segregated South Africa. Led by a policy apparently benign, borned by our own sensitivities, we have cause a fall and curious circle."

As that statement indicates, Bissonnette is not alone resorting to hyperbole to make his case. But he has also put his finger on one of the hot-button issues of our times. The backlash against multiculturalism extends well beyond the xenophobic Le Penists where a handful of aging xenophobes have blocked entry to slide-wrapping nations. A Decem research poll released last year showed that 72 per cent of Canadians surveyed told that ethnic or racial groups should adapt to the Canadian value system rather than maintain their differences. A significant minority (41 per cent) agreed with the statement, "In level of ethnic awareness being given special treatment."

Bissonnette contends that Canada's minorities are depressed in spirit, much poorer expressions of discontent. He sums some of his most scathing criticism for the well-intentioned white liberals who have been among the staunchest defenders of all things multicultural. In *Selling Illusions*, he recounts the countless debates within the

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**Reconciling
divisions in
Canada: how
to believe?**

Western Canada ever holding a conference exclusively for "writers of color" this past summer. "Throughout the multi-lingual and race-casting and self-gift," he writes, "we could hear the background music of solidarity/strife peering the skin from white bodies." In an interview, he elaborated on that theme: "Multiculturalism is one of those policies through which non-white white liberals feel that they are making the political use of their territories."

As someone who considers himself "of the left, politically," the socialist is in the uncomfortable position of disagreeing profoundly with those who are his natural allies. And as a good liberal, he takes exceptional pains to disassociate himself from the Belton party before his reading at Wilfrid Laurier: he drew a round of song laughter from students and faculty when he described Beltonians as "of best, knowledge challenge." Yet Bouscatt's position on anti-biculturalism and that of Belton are almost identical. Both say that Canadians should not be defined, or divided, along racial or ethnic lines. And both maintain that while it is fine for individuals and families to celebrate their cultural heritage, they should not expect the government to pick up the tab for doing so.

Bouscatt's thesis has one whopping about multiculturalism in his submission in *Travels*. About 80 per cent of the adult nation's 33 million people are divided almost evenly between those of African and those of East Indian descent. Bouscatt, who was born into a well-to-do Indian family, recalls that the blacks and the Indians arrived as separate racial victims and even had their own political parties. "I write," he writes, "our island version of apartheid, as vile, as divisive, as apartheid."

At the age of 18, a disillusioned Bouscatt immigrated to Canada. But after enrolling at Toronto's York University, he says he caught a taste of many of the same racial tensions. In the student cafeteria, he found himself among the students in one corner, West Indians in another. He says such racial segregation was encouraged by the university, which provided easy ethnic organizations with their own student lounges. Bouscatt modelled them all. "I had not come here," he says, "in order to get a ghetto."

Bouscatt's new lives in Montreal with his companion, lawyer Anne Marcotte, the couple have a three-year-old daughter, Elise. The author says he hopes that when his daughter's daughter is

asked her nationality in years to come, people will accept the one-word reply: Canadian. The alternative, he jokes, is quite a mouthful: a Franco-Quebecois-Indian-Torontonian-West-Indo-Canadian.

Bouscatt's critics say that he is being unfairly strictist. Santa Flannery, the federal minister responsible for multiculturalism, told Bouscatt that she was "quite excited" by parts of the book. She said that, contrary to Belton's assertions, the purpose of multiculturalism is to foster links and promote common values. Myra Kesteven, an Edmonton-based author who has written extensively about her own Ukrainian heritage (*Call of Sister's Children, Bloodlines*), said she cannot understand why Bouscatt seems to think that ethnic identity presents a threat to national cohesion. "If I identify myself as a third-generation Ukrainian-Canadian, with certain things in my blood that, how is that not being a Canadian?" she asks. "Who does he think is saying this, Irving this, it's not a real Canadian?"

Others are even. Mander, charging that Bouscatt favors a policy of forced assimilation. "If [Bouscatt] would like to resist in the colonial days, far more than are a few countries that he would never be," says City of Toronto equal opportunity director Gita Benishewitz, "what, like Bouscatt, was born in Trinidad and moved to Canada 30 years ago. Her mother then dies and she laughs at 'I'm sorry,' she says 'I'm not taking this too seriously. I've decided I have to stop being angry about this single book.'"

For all his objections to multiculturalism, Bouscatt's prescriptions for change are remarkably timid. In the final pages of *Belton*, he draws away from calling for the abolition of the federal multiculturalism department. Instead, he suggests that the federal government should spend about \$25 million in grants—should be placed at one's length from the government, teach like the Canada Council. Beyond that, he speaks vaguely about the need for Canadians to rediscover and define their common values—such as the national flag for consultation—and remind that newcomers understand and abide by them. "It may sound ridiculous," he admitted to Mander. "But it's not so outrageous or polemic. I'm just trying to start the debate."

Mander accomplished.

ERIKAN HERSHMAN is in Toronto



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THE PRICE OF PEACE

Syria's Hafez al-Assad knows what he wants—and will not settle for less

Would the return of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights to Syria complete the great circle in the Middle East? On March 28, 1979, Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat signed the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty at Jimmy Carter's White House. Three years and six months later, as the last Israeli soldier left the Sinai desert, Egypt peacefully regained "every inch of sacred Arab soil" captured by Israel in the 1967 Six Day War. Ever since, that agreement has been Syrian President Hafez al-Assad's model. If Israel seeks peace with Syria, he said last week, ever talks to Damascus with U.S. President Bill Clinton, it will have to withdraw from the occupied Golan Heights "in the line of 1967." A week earlier, *Al-Nasr*, the daily newspaper of Assad's ruling party, spelled it out still more graphically: "Syria cannot wait for hundreds of years without reestablishing one iota of its land. There will be no way for peace and coexistence unless that occupied Arab land is fully recovered."

On the surface, at least, the prospects for Israeli-Arab peace appeared to increase significantly last week with the signing of an agreement ending a 46-year state of war between Israel and Jordan. Still, at that accord, Jordan's King Hussein created a dangerous precedent for Assad. Israel agreed to restore about 120 square miles of disputed border territory in Jordan. In return, Jordan will lease some of the land back to the Israeli farmers who had encroached on it over the past

three decades. Israeli ministers hinted that the deal might carry the seeds of a Golan compromise. But Assad condemned the treaty as a betrayal of Arab solidarity and angrily dismissed any chance of following suit. "Our land is ours," he declared. "Anyone who dreams that Syria would lease its land is essentially wrong and causing a major mistake. There won't be peace, even if we live five or hundreds of years, unless the land is restored in full."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin may want to test the area through more private channels, but independent experts are inclined to take Assad at his word. "He is not



Hussein (left) and Rabin celebrating last week's draft. Assad and Clinton in Damascus (below). Syrian antagonism towards the Jewish state remains deep and permanent



by AP/Wide World

likely to submit to the Jordanian model," said Moshe Mass, director of the Harry S. Truman Center for Peace Research at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. "His model is Iran, and he is going to be very adamant." Assad's goals go out, but the Golan issue—first, as a president in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when Syria took over much of the height only to succumb to an Israeli counterattack. But the war is not only a matter of unity. "Assad has to demonstrate that he can return the Golan for the Arabs," said Mass. The author of a 1988 biography of the Syrian dictator, "He cannot be less Arab than Egypt." The Golan, a 650-sq-mile territory that rises to a peak of nearly 7,200 feet, also has strategic importance for Syria. Israel's ability to station troops there, having left his own Damascus, represents a major threat.

There are credible, but unconfirmed, reports of a secret side-meeting between Rabin and Assad under which Israel would return all of the heights in return for full peace with Syria. Rabin has lectured the Israeli public often enough on the "Sixteen" that they can lose peace without relinquishing territory. But even if the reports are true, the details have not yet been filled in—and, as the saying goes, the devil is in the details.

Some of the unanswered questions

state of co-existence.

Among other issues to be decided: • Will the Israeli and Syrian exchange prisoners? If so, at what stage of the talks draw? • Will Syria's borders be open to Israeli travelers and traders?

• Will Syria close the Damascus offices of the extreme Palestinian and Islamic rejectionist groups, from which they direct many of the terrorist attacks on Israeli targets?

• Will Assad use the necessary green light to his puppet Lebanese government to make peace with Israel?

At a past press conference with Clinton last week, the Syrian president restricted himself to restating "the readiness of Syria to commit itself to the objective requirements of peace through the establishment of peaceful, mutual relations with Israel." Security concerns, he added, "do not justify one country to hold on to the land of other countries." Assad brushed off a reporter's question about Syrian-sponsored terrorism, claiming simply that Syria itself did not engage in terrorist acts.

Before leaving Damascus on Tel Aviv the next day on his Sunday, 100-country Midwest tour, Clinton told reporters that he had made "some progress" but achieved no breakthrough. All the signs are that the visit failed to kick start stalled negotiations. Whether

• How long would Israel be given to withdraw? Rabin has suggested five years, Assad one year.

• How would Israel's security be guaranteed, once it relinquished the strategic buffer from which it has guarded the towns and villages of Galilee below? Suggestions range from strict limits on Syrian military deployment on the heights to an international monitoring force to electronic early-warning systems.

• How would water resources, a cause of constant friction between the two countries prior to the 1967 war, be divided?

On the other side of the peacekeepers' equation is the question of how Assad defines the "full return" of the Golan. Is he offering Israel in return for full withdrawal, he asks in last week's *Al-Nasr*, the Syrian leader still inclined to talk of "diplomatic" relations—implying de facto, perhaps, but not de jure—to the Israelis, who do not seem to be trapped into a carte

technical or tactical advances the Americans may have fostered, the process promises to be long, slow and grinding. Assad knows what he wants and is not going to settle for less—although since the collapse of Syria's former benefactor, the Soviet Union, he clearly would like to see the financial and diplomatic benefits that go with American goodwill.

On the Israeli side, Rabin has to convince an uneasy public that he is not expanding the country in unsteady danger by evacuating the Golan without adequate negotiations. He has agreed to submit any pallid plan to a referendum—the first in modern Israeli history.

But Rabin faces opposition from a strong right-wing lobby supporting the 13,000 Jewish settlers in 32 Golan towns and villages. Its leading spokesman is Avigdor Kahalani, an MP in Rabin's own Labor party who, as a tank commander on the heights, was one of the heroes of the Yom Kippur War. "Any agreement which involved giving up the Golan would be unacceptable," Kahalani argued in a recent parliamentary debate. "The Golan is a geographic and topographic defense line. Anyone who thinks that territory is no longer important in an age of missiles need only remember the [1951] Gulf War to see this mistake." For six weeks the U.S. Air Force provided the troops, and nothing happened. But when the tanks moved in, the war ended in 300 hours.

In Israel, a country where almost all able-bodied men and women perform compulsory military service, the humblest reserve sergeant considers himself a security expert. Assad has few such lieutenants on his side. It would be much easier for the 64-year-old dictator, who has ruled Syria with an iron fist since 1971, to impose an agreement on his people. For language master, Assad's devotion to side with the Allies during the Gulf War underscored his strength as a leader. "If he could go to war against Iraq, a brother Arab, and achieve victory, he could achieve peace," the Hebrew University professor insisted. "He could also make peace with Israel." Observers are satisfied that Assad's control over the Syrian arsenal forces to secure. And he broke the back of the domestic Islamic opposition in February, when his troops massacred some 20,000 in a province known as Hama. "The march of class wars to see peace," said Mass. "The rest would need some re-educating."

Tot in spite of Clinton's ardent diplomacy, Israeli-Syrian peace is not just around the corner. Long before the final master of a peace agreement last week, Israel and Jordan had been de facto allies—a relationship maintained by secret meetings between officials of the two countries since 1968. By contrast, Syrian antagonism towards the Jewish state remains deep and permanent. For Assad, peace with Israel is not a gift of reconciliation, but the price for American assistance. Now that he has seen the bill, he may be reluctant to pay it.

ERIC SHERER in Jerusalem

Gingrich on the campaign trail: a redneck message



Tough-talking Georgian

A congressman spearheads the right's campaign



ASSIGNMENT

CARL MOLLINS
IN MINNEAPOLIS

The rednecked quest of modern North America is close again with red spots where white.

White's New World Encyclopedia

The only thing red about Newt Gingrich, a darling of the American right and its better-than-Baptists, is, as the red, white and blue picture of Republican Party eloquence on his necktie. The only thing green about the 36-year congressional veteran and Republican whiz in his army of the Democratic party's bitter denunciation of the House of Representatives. But in the summer of the defining referendum with differing language that, whether his Georgia base, Gingrich has been during from place to place in advance of the U.S. elections

on Nov. 6, respectively tonight a radically right-wing message in his staccato style in support of fellow Republicans. And last week, in an interview on the fly while in Minnesota's traditionally liberal terrain in Minneapolis and other parts of Minnesota, the increasingly confident congressman declared: "The political establishment is tired politically with a cynicism on the scale of what happened in Canada's governing party a year ago."

Gingrich set aside the fact that the delirious Canadian Conservative stood closer to his ideas than the Liberals who supplanted them. He talked his pitch to his listeners as he demonstrated in Minneapolis on glass that could vault the party into majority control of Congress. And he did not predict as great a Democratic defeat as Nov. 11 as the collapse that held Canadian Conservatives a year ago down to a pair of Commons seats (Nov. 22). His broad forecast last week was for "20 to 25" Republican additions to the party's present 175 members in the 435-seat House. Re-

publicans could also overturn a 36-to-64 Democratic majority in the Senate, he noted, and win governorships in key state elections. But Gingrich presents his campaign as more than a partisan power struggle. The tell-tale media tie he leads to a visionary response to the popular will. The sometime history teacher plans his crusade in the context of a global social transformation.

"It's partly inspired, frankly, by what happened in Canada last year," said Gingrich, playing to the audience in a Madison interview. "I think the current industrial world is going through this enormous trauma. From Berlin to Poland to Italy to France—with that simple exception of Germany, where Mikhail Gorbachev is a mere shadow—just over the planet you see a tremendous pressure for change. I think that the same thing's happening in the U.S. People want us to know us as information age. They want us to be prepared to compete in a world market. They feel deeply that the welfare state has failed and they're very bitter about it. And I think the political establishment here has just not listened."

What the Democrats do better in that the revolution is growing: the personal control of Newton Leroy (Newt) Gingrich, 55, in a take-no-prisoners version of partisan combat. He clashed with Democratic House speakers early in his war against Democrats. In 1987, he lodged the accusations of financial wrong-

doing against Democratic Speaker Jim Wright that led to Wright's resignation two years later. In 1990, when an investigation into equally gray Congressman Barney Frank's tenure of a state prostitute as a personal aide found his guilty of two major infractions and recent removal a reprimand, which Frank accepted, Gingrich presented a motion of censure, a stronger punishment. (It was defeated.) In the current campaign, Gingrich promised in spring when, on Oct. 16, a failed attempt of a private Gingrich meeting with lobbyists quashed him mentioning the potential campaign contributions that his party had drafted a bill to restrict their actions. In the same session, he described President Bill Clinton's Democratic administration as "the enemy of normal Americans." An unrepentant Gingrich later allowed that he probably should have said "foes" to "instead of enemy."

Nine days later, Gingrich presented on national television details from a document prepared by White House Budget Director Alan Revitz of three options for cutting future budget deficits. The list included possible limits on one-off-line increases in Social Security premiums and the elimination of new income-tax deductions. That, said Gingrich, shows the hypocrisy as an administration that has repeatedly attacked his own policies as regressive.

In the Minneapolis interview, Gingrich treaded carefully when asked if there was not economic elements in the Rehn study that he could accept. "That's baloney," he said. "That's a total misrepresentation of our position. You don't get it. We are far away from being able to do any different policies than this administration."

It was the only open sign during that campaign tour of the partisan Gingrich mission. The last often tarred Gingrich, following a campaign event in the southern corner of the state, began to show the transference from looking, the policy campaign tour coalition. In the shadow of a Indiana show, Gingrich seemed back, expressing anger later that no critics challenged him. He repeated his pitch over and over again, at a seven-hour day that included a 50,000-people redneck lunch for a local candidate. He later continued west to South Dakota, Idaho and Washington state. By the campaign's close, staffers say, he will have visited 137 congressional districts in 36 states over 28 months—with advice, encouragement and bad rumors.

Such personal attention has helped Gin-

grich recruit an army of mostly nonpartisan, mostly conservative Republicans who helped him drive the party to the right. It has also made him a major Republican power. The Reagan program in both rednecks with about 10 million raised annually through a political action committee called G.O.P.A.C. Since becoming its chairman in 1986, he has transformed G.O.P.A.C. from a source of funds for congressional candidates to a funding for Gingrich political instruction topics, conference calls to candidates and his visits to them.

Gingrich, transplanted in his home from his native Pennsylvania to Georgia, where he represents the Atlanta suburbs, narrowly won the Republican write-in election, in a 1989 poll for the party No. 2 caucus job, from a candidate backed by party leaders. Now he is the favorite to replace Minority Leader Robert Michel of Illinois, retiring in age 71 be-

coming orders from his would-be House Speaker and his allies. A Republican majority would mark the end of government that is too big, too intrusive and too easy with the public's money," according to "Confront with America," the House Republican policy statement. Backed by Gingrich and more than three-quarters of Republican House candidates in a Capitol Hill poll, according to Sept. 20, the contract promises conservative action as Congress to reduce its size and protect its privileges. Majority or not, says Gingrich, within 100 days his party will introduce the "full and open debate" legislation to curb jobs in welfare, cut capital gains tax, increase penalties for criminal behavior, and to force under United Nations environmental and foster family values under an "American Dream Restoration Act." That includes a too-deficit American Dream savings plan designed to help middle-class families. Some moderate Republicans have objected in part of the contract, notably a plan to deny public welfare to nation-wide 18 years old and withhold aid to children born to mothers already on welfare.

Reader control, progress, to a poor limit on the length of term members of Congress may serve, could prove an embarrassment for Gingrich himself. The term limit is contested, and enacted by referendum in some states, restricts service in part of the contract. Gingrich is completing his 16th year in the House and going for two more. That conflict between advocacy and practice provides ammunition to Gingrich's Democratic opponent in his home district, former congressman Ron Jones, an actor better known as Gator in the 1970s TV comedy *The Dukes of Hazzard*. Jones, already being awarded a debate with Gingrich, has criticized the Republicans as his GOPAC turns to the way in Congress—accused by two branding dogs. During Gingrich's tour of the Minnesota capital, the Fox reporter reported that Jones was on the line. Gingrich would all the call. "We told him that



Jones: tracking Gingrich with a pair of branding dogs

here a newly elected Congress convenes on Jan. 4. And if the Republicans become the House majority party, their leader would like to take the election House Speaker's chair, a gesture of executive power over the legislative branch. That would create what Wall Street Journal columnist Albert Raitt has described as "the two worlds that exist in the Washington Democrats. Speaker Gingrich."

The 104th Congress has already received

he can see out the gap the price of admission to any events—ballot for the day."

Whether or not term limits take effect, Gingrich may have provided a cautionary in mind, especially if his Republican mission comes strongly in November. Democratic Sen. Norm's Georgia Senate seat again in 1990. So does the White House. Is Gingrich considering a direct run against Clinton? A pause, and then: "I don't think about '96." (C)

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HAITI'S HOPE

Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide nominated Oswald Robert, a 37-year-old businessman, to be his prime minister. Robert, who briefly served as commerce minister in Aristide's first government in 1991, is charged with getting the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation back on its feet after three years of dictatorship and social chaos.

A VOTE FOR CUBA

is a stunning setback for the United States, the US General Assembly voted 101 to 2, with 48 abstentions, to pass a resolution aimed at ending the three-decade-long US economic embargo on Cuba. Among those countries endorsing the resolution was Canada.

STRIKE IN SRI LANKA

The government of Sri Lanka imposed a state of emergency after a bomb attack killed 52 people, including opposition leader and presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake. Police blamed a women's suicide bomber who was a member of the Tamil minority group. But the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who are fighting for independence in the north and east of the island, denied responsibility.

TAILHOOK DECISION

A federal jury in Las Vegas, Nev., awarded former U.S. Navy Lt. Col. Paula Goughlin, who publicly revealed the 1991 Tailhook Convention scandal, \$2.25 million in compensatory damages against Hilton Hotels Corp. Goughlin and 80 other women were groped and sexually harassed as they ate a gourmet of chicken and shrimp at the Las Vegas hotel during the annual meeting of U.S. Navy and Marine aviators.

STILL A DISSIDENT

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, once the Soviet Union's most famous dissident, delivered a scathing denunciation of his homeland's current move to the Russian parliament. The Nobel Prize-winning author accused the deputies of being no better than the Communists they replaced and, to the surprise of ultranationalists, denounced the alleged repression of ethnic Russians in former Soviet republics.

FISHERMEN ON THE HOOK

Following Canada's lead, U.S. government regulators approved a measure to impose harsh new restrictions on fishing on the Georges Bank, an area of the Atlantic Ocean east of Boston and south of Nova Scotia. The action came in wake of new studies that say fish stocks are self-sustainable at current fishing levels.

World NOTES

Ministerial misconduct

So, not saying have always been the pillars of British political scandal, so the current allegations of abuse being faced at Prime Minister John Major's Tory government are no remarkable novelty because they involve money. And, by French or British standards, the amounts are small. Last month, justice minister Tim Smith resigned after admitting that he accepted a couple of thousand dollars from wealthy Egyptian businessman Mohamed al-Fayed to ask questions in the House of Commons on his behalf. Now, two other government ministers stand accused of receiving fees, unacknowledged, accommodation at al-Fayed's Ritz Hotel in Paris. Last week, Mayor David Jones admitted Neil Hamilton to the walls of revelations about his



Al-Fayed (above): Mayor Mackintosh?



connections to al-Fayed. Treasury Chief Secretary Jonathan Aitken was under pressure to resign as well.

The scandal stems from the Egyptian's takeover of the famed Harrods department store in West End London in the late 1980s. Al-Fayed was furious that a government panel that investigated the takeover had criticized his financial conduct, and was frustrated that his request for British citizenship was being held up. For his part, Major held up that al-Fayed had tried to blackmail the government with his evidence of alleged ministerial misconduct. Al-Fayed's reply was in the press, the prime minister supplied last week, after his overture was rebuffed.

Age-old questions

Ever since the American astronomer Edwin Hubble demonstrated in 1929 that the universe is expanding, scientists have tried to use that knowledge to try to pin down the age of the universe. Using observations from the U.S. space telescope that bears Hubble's name, scientists said that they have now calculated that the universe came into being between 10 and 12 billion years ago. The range, from calculations based on a team of astronomers headed by University of Wisconsin's Wendy L. Freedman of the Carnegie Observatories in Pasadena, Calif., is well below other estimates of between 10 and 20 billion years—and conflicts with widely accepted scientific findings that have put the age of some stars at 18 billion years.

The calculation was based on observations made by the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope of light from large, bright stars in the M100 galaxy in the Virgo cluster of galaxies, 56 million light-years from Earth. From that information—which could be revised in the light of further observations from the space telescope—the astronomers made a complex series of calculations to estimate the age of the universe. The age estimate that emerged is

similar to calculations made recently by another group of astronomers who observed stars in another Virgo galaxy using the 3-telescope Canada-France-Hawaii collecting telescope on Mount Maunakea in Hawaii.

If the universe has only existed for between 8 and 12 billion years, scientists may be faced to revise some entrenched ideas. For one thing, astronomers have assumed that a longer time frame would have been needed for the complex structures of galaxies to form. As well, if some stars are older than the age estimate produced by the Hubble data, that could mean that the widely accepted Big Bang theory—which holds that the universe was born in a single instant of creation—is wrong, and that solar elements of the universe existed before others were blown out among them. Another possibility, says Jayant Matthews, a University of British Columbia astronomer, is that even the Hubble telescope is not able to see far enough into space to make observations that are completely free of distortions that could skew the calculations. "In order to accurately measure the expansion of the universe," said Matthews, "we may have to look farther out."

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HEALTH FOR PROFIT

The private sector is aching to get into medicine

BY BRENDA DALGLISH

At a recent breakfast meeting of Toronto business analysts, Michael Greenberg, a neurosurgeon who is now president of the Technology Inc., a medical equipment and software company based in Mississauga, Ont., showed graphic slides of brain surgery. The slides demonstrated how one of the high-tech products can help a neurosurgeon identify the precise point on a patient's skull for making an incision to remove a tumor located deep inside the brain. It uses a movable viewing world in combination with a three-dimensional scan of the patient's head displayed on a screen beside the operating table. The financial analysts were clearly impressed by the elegance of the technology. Their response warmed even more, however, when Greenberg explained that, because the service is perfectly located, it can be smaller and thus have less time. "That means that a patient's hospital stay—and the related cost—can be reduced considerably. Greenberg and others working in the private sector of Canada's money-prized medical care system claim that the promise of cost effectiveness is the key to thriving. "No one can sell anything new in health care now just because it does the job better," said Greenberg. "It has to have economic benefits, too."

At a time when governments are struggling to hold the line on health-care spending, and hospitals are responding by squeezing for extra revenue from such diverse sources as specialty diets, the private sector and packing private beds, the private sector with its billion-dollar profit, is making significant strides in Canadian health care. Of the \$72 billion spent on health care in Canada in 1990, almost 28 per cent was in the private sector, up from 23 per cent 20 years earlier. Although that increase may seem modest, the slower rate of the health-care sector in profit that the private component

amounts to about \$20 billion annually. And even though Canada's health-care system is largely government-funded, the bulk of the sector—and its potential for growth as the baby-boom generation's health deteriorates with age—offers plenty of potential for profit from medicine. In fact, Warren Justin, chief economist with the Bank of Nova Scotia, says that health care is now one of the most strategically important sectors of the economy, because of its ability to generate high-quality jobs in a growing sector that is driven by innovation and new technologies. "Health care is in for a very substantial restructuring," Justin said. "That process is being portrayed as a threat that will cause dislocation and pain but, in reality, it is creating enormous opportunities for the private sector."

But how is the potential profit possible? In private health care is not a business

managing (MIM) clinics are increasing and in Alberta a new private mental health clinic recently opened its doors. In addition, to private clinics—which are estimated to number in the hundreds now across Canada—a growing number of Canadian companies are supplying the public medical sector with new drugs, equipment and a variety of services from automated testing laboratories to nursing homes.

The rule of the profit-based private sector in Canadian health care will be one of the topics debated by the federal government's National Forum on Health, which was launched late last month to develop a vision of health care for the 21st century. While Canadians may balk at the notion of de facto privatization, it is steadily seeping into the system. In some cases, patients who can afford it are seeking treatment privately to avoid long waiting lists for public services. Others are left with no choice as positions "disappear" some of the services that they had previously classified as essential. While some services, such as cosmetic surgery and cosmetic dentistry, have long been available only at a private fee, others have been removed from public coverage more recently (page 45). Indeed this year, Ontario, for example, stopped paying for some types of infertility treatments. Maria Forster, executive director of the health finance secretariat, says that the agency may also consider such issues as whether the cost of medical checkups for life insurance coverage should be paid by the public system.

For her part, federal Health Minister Diane Marleau says that the risk of new private sites opening to provide everything from eye surgery to rehabilitation is not necessarily bad. But, added Marleau, "It is of concern to me that we do not create two classes of people: those who have money and can demand what ever they want—and I emphasize the word



want—and those who cannot afford the treatment that they want."

Although the for-profit—which will take four years to report—may ultimately make recommendations to restructure the health-care landscape, neither the provinces nor entrepreneurs like Jim Nielsen are waiting for that to happen. Nielsen, a former state insurance executive who was health minister in British Columbia's Social Credit government in the 1980s, began operating a private MRI clinic in April in Richmond, B.C., similar to ones established in other parts of the country. There, patients who are not wait to wait for several months for a scan at one of the province's five publicly owned MRI units can get an immediate appointment by paying



1990: Nielsen (top) and Nielsen (bottom) are not a secret trust.

what he can afford to pay for it. "People say that universal healthcare is a sacred trust," he said. "That's nonsense. We have always had a multi-tiered system. All Canadians don't have equal access to every service." In practice, Canadians in some socially conservative areas do not enjoy the same extensive level of services

as people in large cities. And Nielsen says that the wealthy have always been able to go to the United States or anywhere else for whatever treatment they want.

Opportunities for private profit also arise from changes in government legislation as in the case of Columbia Health Care's new neuro-rehabilitation centre in Toronto. The impetus for the facility's creation came from the province's new public health insurance legislation. Along with removing the need, and expense, of going to court to settle the issue of blame, it made patients who suffer head injuries eligible for up to \$1 million in private-care rehabilitation need for by their insurance companies. As a result, Columbia, a private health-care company, approached Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Toronto, which specializes in head injuries, with a proposal to build a 150-million rehabilitation facility. Bill Brown, president of Columbia, says medically stable patients can be transferred there to receive the skills that they lack as a result of their injury.

Such changes inevitably create winners and losers. While workers' compensation and so forth are insurance pay for rehabilitation for many who need it, Brown notes that a hospital, for instance, who suffers from injury at a fall at home is left out in the cold—except in the unlikely event that she has private insurance—because private healthcare insurance does not pay for rehabilitation. "Your treatment depends on the politics of how you were insured," says Brown.

Some critics view the proliferation of private clinics as an impairment on Canada's char-

tered universal healthcare system. They argue that if, as in the case of private MRI clinics, individuals who are able to afford a large fee can get faster service, then the best solution is for all taxpayers to pay a little more and buy more MRI machines so that the waiting time for all patients is reduced. Michael Decker, a former deputy minister of health in Ontario and the chief negotiator of the province's 1993 social contract with public sector workers, is now running a private health-management consulting business in Toronto. He says that the problem with running a health-care system that includes both public and private suppliers is that the private suppliers are motivated only by the prospect of a profitable, low-risk service, leaving the public system to bear the burden of the rest. "If you introduce a profit motive, then everyone wants to shed risks, and the public system gets stuck with the bill," said Decker. "You can only run a health-care system on one of two systems: ability to pay, or need to benefit."

Where health-care dollars go

as a percentage of total health spending



like any other. As the federal and provincial governments pressure the medical system to restrain costs, some services are being dropped and the private sector is stepping in to fill those gaps. But because each province sets its own health-care agenda, there are few nationwide trends. As a result, in Ontario there are private rehabilitation clinics, in British Columbia private magnetic resonance

In Canada, our system is based on the belief that people's access to health care should be based on the size of their wallet.

Based upon that premise, Greiner says that the private sector has a role, but mainly as a supplier of goods and services to hospitals and the medical community, not to patterns directly. In particular, Greiner points out that Canada is a net exporter of \$5 billion worth of medical supplies each year. He said, "That's a huge market for medical supplies that we should be trying to supply from within the country."

Indeed, a growing number of Canadian companies are making a bet that demand for medical supplies will be strong for the next several years, as they target another segment of the medical market that has developed operating software for handling medical images on computer systems. Greiner describes it as a small niche of a rapidly growing market segment. "We want," he said, "to be the Microsoft of medical imaging," referring to the company whose DOS software has become the operating base of almost 90 percent of the world's personal computers. According to Greiner, the product will soon reach that level, for instance, will no longer come in

film form but will be called up on computer screens for viewing in hospitals and doctors' offices. Instead of being stored in the rooms, the old films will be filed on computer discs. As well as being more efficient, Greiner says, that change will reduce costs.

Most high-tech development companies typically take about 30 years to develop a product, sell it and begin to make profits and sell, which was formal in 1982, in no exception. It has and reported its second profitable quarter. Based on contracts already in place, Greiner is forecasting big sales increases in the next two or three years. The company's share price has increased eightfold since 1990 and it now employs 180 people in a variety of high-

school, self-paced jobs in Canada.

Pharmaceutical development is another important area where Canadian companies are beginning to establish a strong presence. One of the first steps in the development of a pharmaceutical is the development of a drug. After hospital and doctor fees. And they are the single largest component of the private sector. Last summer, Quadra Logic Technologies Inc. of Vancouver received approval to market its special light-sensitive drug. The drug is a light-sensitive compound, which gives automatically accumulates in cancerous or otherwise diseased cells. When these cells are then exposed to an intense light source, often from laser, they are destroyed. It is believed to be effective in treating early-stage lung, esophagus, bladder, stomach and cervical cancers. Because it can eliminate the need for surgery in some cases, it is less expensive than conventional treatments. Dr. Rafael Chene, Quadra Logic's vice-president of operations, says that because of the natural light-sensitive nature of the drug, it appears to have the potential to treat a variety of other diseases as well.

One of the pioneers of private health care in Canada is MDA Health Group Ltd. of Toronto, best known for its more than 400 laboratories in hospitals and medical clinics in the province. Founded in Canada in 1975, it

also sells analytical equipment, materials including radiotopes and imaging agents, medical supplies and specialized health and administrative services. In addition, it runs a variety of central-level test results in providing health-related companies, among them, 86 and Columbia Health Care. MDA's financial condition has suffered recently because some provinces have created a monopolization of lab fees—a professional board of speaking in an industry controlled by the government. As a result, it is using smaller contracts, but continues its executive clinics. Those clinics cater to senior executives, but they can be used by anyone willing to pay several hundred dollars for the rigorous annual checkups that they provide. The checkups include such things as stress tests and distal blood and other lab tests not included in the routine annual checkups that provincial medicine covers.

But even as the debate over Canada's budget priorities unfolds, the country's health-care system will seek to maintain a delicate balance among governments who must control costs, patients who want the best care possible, and private enterprises looking for profits. The issue of the surgery market is a delicate balance, and the growing health-care needs of an aging population—that debate is becoming a matter of life and death. □



Carl Craig, "walking in step someone from doing face-offs in a room."

Safety is not the only issue involved in accreditation. Carl Craig, clinic manager for MDA Health, an imaging clinic in Toronto, says that unless clinical standards are reporting standards, it is difficult to compare the success rates of various types of procedures. At MDA patients pay \$4,000 each time they attempt an in vitro fertilization. Because that procedure fails significantly more often than it succeeds, prospective patients can benefit from a careful scrutiny of clinics' performances. "But right now accreditation is a voluntary thing," said Craig. "It should be mandatory."

Craig also wants the national Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, which controls doctors' rights to practice medicine, to make accreditation mandatory. "If there are checks and controls on what you're allowed to do, then we know the public will be protected against any unpleasant thing that might want to try something that's not qualified to do," said Craig. "After all, the problem of bad surgery is not that it's bad, but that it's a death. There should never be a death with this kind of surgery."

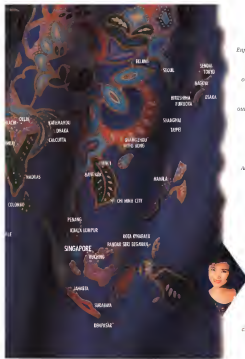
B.D.

Buyer beware

Dwight Carlson, a Toronto plastic surgeon who is renowned for his face-lifts, has a warning for patients of private medical facilities: buyer beware. Unlike public facilities that operate under strict standards, private clinics, even those that perform surgical procedures, have to answer to no one. Said Carlson, "Usually, there is nothing to stop someone from doing face-lifts in a home."

Carlson, who established Canada's first private cosmetic surgery hospital in Woodbridge, Ont., in 1971—and is also staff of plastic surgery at St. Michael's General Hospital—says that his clinic is a member of a voluntary organization, the Canadian Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities. The association sets detailed standards for facilities, equipment, staffing and procedures, and requires that quality-control records be kept to track any problems that a clinic may be having. The association also expects member facilities every three years to ensure that those standards are being met.

But the association has only 25 members across Canada, says Carlson, who is its chairman. His estimate is that there are one-third of the private medical clinics in Canada doing procedures that should be monitored. Member clinics offer infidelity treatment and prostate, ear, nose and throat, orthopedic, oral, dental and cosmetic surgery. Not all standards pass a theoretical inquiry. In 1987, three patients died of cardiac arrest in a Vancouver oral surgery office that did not meet the association's equipment and monitoring standards.



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The taming of the last of the red hot traders

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

A decade ago, Vancouver was populated by corporate technocrats who let it all hang out—blasting their laptops, their women and their cash. The city's macho ethic was best expressed by one big shooter who modestly claimed that "given a stick of dynamite, a yacht and a couple of friends" he could "get along without national things."

Of that era's few survivors (they're even sparer than anonymous Canadian phone therapists), only Jimmy Pattison, 66, has grown in power and influence. He has gone the *Endy* electric-blue suits and white golfball polka-dot ties that he used to wear. He has calmed down and instead of wildly trading his corporate portfolio, has succeeded in putting together The Jim Pattison Group, Canada's 25th-largest company in terms of revenues, and settled into a comfortable, if conservative, groove. His \$5-billion empire consists of 45 private companies involved in everything from publishing to real estate, outdoor sports and operating 26 Raley's (a la carte) or Not restaurants around the world.

All of the shares in all of these operations are held by Pattison, and since he pockets all of their earnings he easily ranks as one of Canada's wealthiest citizens. "I don't ever think about it," he told me in an interview last week. "I don't live any differently I live in the same West Vancouver house I lived in 20 years ago when I just owned one car dealer ship. I still drive my old 1975 Pontiac in the summer and my white 1982 Cadillac in the winter. I still have the same dog and the same constant." He also still runs his own daily at his desk—a glass of two-percent milk and a sandwich.

Pattison's crazy trading days may be over—he does only one out of the 30-day proposals that come across his desk in an average week—but his work habits haven't changed a bit. "What I do for fun is work," he says. "I should pay to come into this office. I'm usually in by 9:15 and never leave before an at night."

Jimmy Pattison has cast aside his electric-blue suits and golfball polka-dot ties and has settled into a comfortable groove

"There are no days I don't have a good time." He still plays trumpet at a local Pentecostal church on Sundays and keeps firm control on his own companies' management.

Work almost, Jimmy has ordered a new toy. It's a 1994, four-door luxury cruiser that can do 20 knots, has a Jacuzzi and is decorated according to the sales brochure, "in the colors of the sea at sunset." The Nova Sport, as the new ship will be christened next spring, will eventually replace his current \$24,000 luxury day cruiser, the Nova Springs. It's used mainly by the Pattison Group's executives to entertain clients and for visitors to employee sales contacts. Pattison himself, true to his work habits, uses his boat mostly to entertain his executive contacts. His pleasure cruises are limited to generally one day a year. He celebrates his wedding anniversary each year by taking Mary, his wife of 43 years, to Desolation Sound, a marine park north of Vancouver.

"It'll be you," he says. "There are more business opportunities today than there have ever been. But you've got to be careful. We've tried very hard to do some major investments in the States, but prices are very high. We just haven't been successful in buying into any major American operations."

What's really driving him to expand south of the border is the low Canadian dollar. "If the buck went back to 90 cents, that would be a huge of a different story," he says. "At the moment, we're expanding in British Columbia and Alberta and supporting the businesses we have in Ontario and Quebec." He is totally indifferent to the politics of the Parti-Quebecois province. "If they secede," he says, "there are still going to be people to do business with."

Parties in continuity on the road. He has just come back from Japan and China (we're sending a team over to look at joint venture possibilities in entertainment and pecking away). Last year, he took 42 motor ships aboard his private Challenger 600 jet, which replaced the slower Challenger 580, which in turn was brought in to replace his three previous Learjets. Much of his financial business is now run out of Barbados, which he calls "a tax-efficient place to run a trading operation from." The boats he once owned in the Cayman Islands and Switzerland have been spun off. He has also sold the B.C. Orange Crush and is away for his packaging companies as well as his recreational vehicle assembly plants.

The West Coast entrepreneur's newest venture is B.C. Super Delivery, which has facilities in Vancouver, Montreal and Saint John, N.B., and extensive retail operations in Alberta and Manitoba. It already carries more than 30 per cent of the \$204-million company. That move follows his grab of Western Air, the corporate bulk of which was once the mighty B.C. Resources Investment Corp., set up by the provincial government with assets worth \$1 billion and \$240 million in its original treasury. A series of incomplete C.I.R.O. related its holdings to a cash-strapped terminal of Thompson just outside of Vancouver. But by getting control, Pattison was able to capture his firm's oil losses worth more millions of dollars. He leaves nothing about cost land on it. But he's true to the name of his operations. "The only business I know anything about is selling cars," he says. "I own, and I do, of course, every business has its own unique characteristics. The philosophy has been to diversify so that when one business is down, another is up. We're not generally selling anything these days and about the only thing I do want to be in is sports. There's no money in it. Look at the Canucks. They did really well last year, and made \$600,000. If they hadn't been at the Stanley Cup, the owners would have lost \$3 million, after making a huge investment."

Late in his middle age, Jimmy Pattison, the astute company robot who every month fired the least productive sales guy off his payroll, is in serious danger of losing the Establishment.

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With two smash musicals, Garth Drabinsky is the toast of Broadway

BY MARCI McDONALD

Garth Drabinsky was not having a good day. It was not a day like some of his recent hit-musical bad days—remember that Dec. 1, 1989, when he walked out of his last Chrysler Orlon Corp. board meeting, stripped of his chairman's title and prize, ignominiously forced out of the company he had built into the continent's second-largest movie chain.

No, for ordinary mortals that day would have been a triumph—an outpouring of sweet revenge. Only two nights earlier, Drabinsky's badly \$11.5-million revival of *Show Boat* had opened on Broadway to rapturous reviews and advance sales of \$18 million that were already guaranteeing a decade's worth of box-office take. With walking gap-slayer Vanessa Williams padding them in at her premiere, they overtook production of *King of the Spider House* six blocks away. Drabinsky had suddenly emerged as the toast of the New York City theatrical scene—billed as the potential savior of the high-budget American musical.

In Toronto, his company's production of *The Phantom of the Opera* had just celebrated its fifth anniversary in Canada's elegantly restored Parkland Theatre. And his latest \$6-million Canadian *Show Boat* production was making its first year in the city's North York Performing Arts Centre—a testament to his efforts to turn Toronto into Broadway's most important tourist town. On top of a *Phantom* road show in Alaska and his version of *Show Boat* and the *Andrew Lloyd Webber* musical starring Dooley Dornack in Chicago, Drabinsky was now raking in \$550 million a year, at 30 per cent of the total commercial box-office receipts on the continent. *The New York Times* was granting him to schedule a profile and *The New Yorker* had offered him an excerpting "Canadian Ziegfeld" less than five years after his humiliating Chrysler exit, not only had Drabinsky underestimated his own spectacular comeback, but he had done it on an entirely new stage—one where he was enjoying more respect and creative freedom than he had ever known as a branch



Drabinsky, John McMartin and ensemble in New York *Show Boat* (left); Peter Harris, Glenn Bakula in the Toronto *Phantom* (right) in "Canadian Ziegfeld"



years' made-to-order musical.

Still, all this had not made Garth Drabinsky a happy man. Scarcely 40 hours after *Missoula's* Jack Ford had disappeared over *Show Boat*—"No longer what a real show is," the days-old *Supersize* was billed as in his New York hotel this morning, a cold and a sense of isolation. "Every time I have one of those openings, an amateur has succeeded. I go through one of those postpartum depressions," he moaned. "The body always breaks down afterward—there's no more adrenaline pumping. You don't want to get inside the rooms and be there and silent."

Not that Drabinsky had time to reflect for long. There were phases to catch—first to Vancouver last week to meet with appropriate boards that *Show Boat* would be opening the new \$24-million, 1,000-seat Ford Centre for the Performing Arts he is building there with architect Moshe Safdie. And, of course, there were his regular Tuesday morning marketing meetings to plot his over-the-shoulder, two-page ad spread: "The Broadway critics can't help but like *Show Boat*" and "New black of velvet suit on sale." As always, Drabinsky's agenda was packed and his procedural machine was churning at full tilt.

But for a man who had never lived his life on a small scale, either in failure or success, Drabinsky's career seemed suddenly, unconsciously plucked. For example, *Tempestuous* showed him that he had spent most of the past four decades battling tragedy—now, in the process, caught in almost slow his path—though appeared to be an unbroken fit. "Garth is at his best with his back against the wall," says film producer Daniel Weinbaum, a former Chrysler vice-president who has known him since high school. Drabinsky's wife, Freda, a native high-school French teacher, agrees. After 22 years of marriage, she still marvels at "his tenaciousness and the drive, the desire to prove himself over and over again. And," she adds, "it's never enough—never."

Garth Drabinsky swings down on his prodigious corner table at Pines, one of Toronto's classiest midtown cafés, with a showman's usual wariness on his mind. "The more nervous" he is to explain it when a constant to realize that he is talking not to some distant theatrical fringe, but to the restaurant's owners, who he knows will interfere with using an interview. The head-on producer who likes to oversee every detail of his shows from casting to the captions on a promotional video has turned his nervousness to overseeing a story on himself. And, as usual, he has an acerbic grasp of both the concept and the politics.

"It's a story about a guy who's put two shows on Broadway playing at the same time," he says, winking off

THE SHOW MASTER

questions about his Clapton debacle. "We Canadians have had two shows on Broadway (opening at the same time)." Clapton is history, he insists. Besides, it is a history that he himself will be writing, autobiographically, due out in February. Claptoned six years ago when he was still the toast of the music industry, the book has been through not only a major change in story line, but at least six drafts, three titles and two co-authors. The project started when he scribbled a copy of a proposed autobiography, "I Should, What," he says. "Then I let the control of this, my life."

Personally selecting Toronto writer Gae Mallet, Drabinsky worked with her through five drafts and his changing fortunes, postponing publication twice. By 1992, *Gods: The Story Is Far from Over* (Goth) Low Entertainment, Inc. had been acquired by McClelland & Stewart's fall catalogue. Then, suddenly, the title was pulled from the company's lists. "I have total control of the book," Drabinsky told *The Globe and Mail* at the time. Since then, he has bought out Mallet and hired former Toronto Life editor Mary DeVilliers to rewrite the tale, entitled *Clapton: The Story as I Remember It* in the Greek myth of Icarus, whose wings and overreaching ambition were severed when he tried to fly too high.

Close close to the project estimate that the literary rating has cost Drabinsky nearly \$200,000. "He'll never make a cent from it," says one source. In fact, the book has been a surprising financial personal failure. But it has provided, supposedly, candid self-portrait that readers dear who "thinks" as the adjective often use most frequently about Drabinsky, and why "control" is the noun that most often punctuates his own conversations.

Not surprisingly, the autobiography begins at the moment he first knew he had no control himself at the age of three in a police questionnaire of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. Numbered with liver and gall, he watched nurses wheel off other kids several times, many of them as long-legged as yours of whom would wear the same apron. It was the age Dr. Joseph Sakla, public vascular was being tested. But by the time the surgery was released, it was already too late.

'My experiences were so dark there was nothing I could do but fantasize'

for the brothers son of Phil Drabinsky, a casino engineer who had built up a modest art collection business.

These memories, too, are in his head, left out, from the leave down, virtually asleep. And for the summer, a series of operations gave Drabinsky an intimate acquaintance with the degradation of pain. "I remember screaming at nurses, screaming for morphine," he once told Marlene. "It was embarrassing, because whenever you made your head, you're reduced to a whimpering child." Later, he was so overcome with fear at the outcome of it all that he took off his brace and harked it at his

Kid brother, Sheldene, nearly blinding him. Still, his non-verbal mother refused to let his complaint feel very for him. She made him go to school—a special treatment. That misadventure, he admits, may have contributed to his lack of control of others' lives. "Gael is the most difficult boss in the world," acknowledges Lydia Friendly, one of his executive vice-presidents, who has known him since they were 17. "He expects his workers to work to the same degree he does. He knows every job's job, better than they do. Nobody comes up to him and says 'Gael, you sometimes get so good'." So someone had to meet his standards, she says. "Gael will deal with you in his own way."

Drabinsky's rages are described by those who have witnessed them as of an epic magnitude. One former studio executive admires his for his brashness, but regrets at the memory of being verbally "assaulted." Still, Drabinsky himself, in his own words, is usually surprised at the extent of his reputation for outbursts. "I never intended anger," he says, "because I think it's wrong to be angry. It's your own fault."

He has always thrown himself relentlessly into his, even into sports. Wearing neckties watching him play squash. "He couldn't get to the ball with two good legs, so he'd literally throw himself into the wall. His energy is unbelievable." But what his unruly child has been unable to accomplish, he made up for with the knowledge of his intellect. At North Toronto Collegiate, he not only scored top marks, but won the presidency of the student council. Already, he was learning to walk his controllable line.

But when he tried it out as an intense, brash boy in a dining hall at the

University of Toronto, he met resistance. "I was not very receptive," admits Pearl Drabinsky. "That first time—the middle name is exactly there is 'Yes'." Within six weeks, he had declared his intention of marriage, even then with a theatrical flourish. "My parents were in absolute terror," she recalls. "When he met my mother, he leapt on her leg and kissed her hand. She almost passed out."

That marriage, she admits, was born. "Gael" is a mouth two weeks ago at both Sheldene and Sheldene, Drabinsky considered possible that he had left her largely alone to raise their two children, Alicia, an 18-year-old freshman at

Show time

Drabinsky with Rebecca Luker, who plays Marlene, in the Broadway show *Boyz n the City* with Terry Donnell at the New York premiere (2); with Christine Lahti (3); with Prince in 1990 (4); Laurence Fishburne (5) and Sadeq Wajid (6) at the Broadway premiere; with Lloyd Webber and Guano (7); and his family—Pearl, Alicia and Gael (8)—at the premiere; smashing all-time records



Brown University in Providence, R.I., and more, who is still in high school. "I was paid, more, that he didn't give me more credit," she says. "Of course, I was close to making the show. I had to give up my career to do it." Yet, she remains a staunch adherent. When they married, she had no idea what he was doing. "I was just a performer or president of the United States."

But at 12, Drabinsky had discovered the movies. "That was my escape," he concedes. "You fantasize out of your experience and my experiences were so dark that there was nothing I could do but fantasize." He can still recall the first film that made him cry. *West*

Side Story with Natalie Wood. Research the business tycoon, he was an anti-social, anti-social, who said, "I will break down all the people, I will make you cry, we won't make money—and it's true. The great mistake have all been made." During the first readings, he was *Shogun* about 1991, when he was Michael Ball broke into *Old Man*. "Where he looked around and everybody had lost it," he says. "I knew then and then, this was his."

In the late 1970s, as an entertainment lawyer, Drabinsky had teamed up with CITY-TV's Moses Zimmmer to mount Tim Stapp's *Twins* in Toronto. Then in 1978 he headed for New York with a 51-minute production called *Boyz n the City*. Co-written with the producer, he was in the audience of Serdi's restaurant, he listened to the devastating reviews. Then, he announced to the highest end party that he was closing the show. "It was a terrible night in my life," he says. "I was a young man, I'd been punched so deep in the solar plexus that you were bleeding out and reaching."

It would take almost 15 years for him to return to Broadway that Drabinsky the supervisor, as not surprised of the criticism in that period, network take a plot line that he should be seen, King-of, on a larger stage. Walking out of a Toronto sound studio late one night after correcting the most minute details of a promotional *New York* video, he spells it out again for a reporter. "It's come back and fight the dream of the movie business, to bring that show to Broadway—it's a great story. It costs like fiction, but it's not."

In 1978, Drabinsky invited himself into production a \$8.5-million movie, *The Changing*, starring George C. Scott, which then yielded to the director of the movie business, then chairman of Canadian Film, he invited to the Editor Centre, whose major shareholder was the Bradfords family.

Drabinsky convinced the Bradfords and his bankers that the reason for his balance-sheet was that Hollywood's distributors were breaking him out because of a lack deal with the country's major theatre chains, *Players* (and) *Canadian* (and). "I was in between at the time," he admits. I said, "Look guys, I can lead the best theatre in the world, but I'm only going to have loans on the seats unless I can get product." He took his on one to the federal government. And he had the evidence of a Canadian's knowledge of history, his vision was a deal to supply films to Canada, effectively leading the chairs' deeply. "Very

agreed by the Ontario Securities Commission. Now would it be their last credit in business ship. Although he would not sign on full time as Drabinsky's vice-president and chief administrative officer at Clapton until 1993, that partnership had been the best of both. New president and chief operating officer of the Ontario Securities Commission, or, at least, in their time is known, Clapton's office and title may be more useful than Drabinsky's, but their shared goals are equal. And there seems a perfect synthesis of personal style. Says Clapton: "This always been my child, he's been in the back of my mind."

Drabinsky founded Clapton in 1979 with his mentor, veteran Canadian film distributor Nat Taylor, whose lifelong dream had been to build movies with multiple screens. After their initial venture in Toronto's Edison Centre, Clapton helped finance a \$2.5-million private placement to form Clapton, Inc. Clapton's first movie, a \$50,000 piece of the action, including Clapton himself and a group of Toronto real estate investors who would later play key roles in the travelling Canadian dream venture capitalist Andy Serlin and Rudy Barty, the lawyer and business partner of development Moses Moses and Alfredo Diaz of *Shogun*.

Drabinsky was soon being lured by his heavily refurbished theatres with their marble floors and concession counters peddling popcorn and popcorn drizzled in real butter. Later, even his enemies would concede that he helped salvage the movie business from the onslaught of the home video, by offering Clapton a series of screens. "He's always been a tremendous showman," says Weinberg. "Today, we call it marketing, but it's old-fashioned showmanship and it's a lot of that he's revived."

But back in the Clapton's boardroom, those meetings were serious. Clapton's men, taking up, back rest at the Grove Centre was upset, and, during a trip to New York, Drabinsky got an urgent call from Clapton. "I told him, 'You'd better get back here,'" Clapton recalls. "There is a mystery." At a stormy board meeting, Drabinsky laid out demands for his resignation, and, instead, one of the crew leaders, Sadeq, stepped down. Now 18 years later, Serlin is back as a latent director, saving Drabinsky's profits as "probably the most brilliant investor in North America" (especially the man who came to Drabinsky's defence while later help him out of Clapton). John Drabinsky, then chairman of Canadian Film, he invited to the Edison Centre, whose major shareholder was the Bradfords family.

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few people in my country," he says, "but over brought the film industry to its knees."

Soon afterward, the *Shogun* crew came on board, topgrossing to total 10 (later increased to 30) per cent of Cineplex stores for \$3 million. Then, through an arrangement, he bought out the Orion chain. For two years, Drabinsky watched as U.S. movie houses at a breakneck pace. By the late 1980s, he owned 1,800 screens in six provinces and 26 states, from Maryland to California. He boasted of bagging more than \$500,000 in a year in the company's no-longer flying lifestyle for which he was later lambasted. "How do you get to all the small towns where we worked without a plane?" he bristles. "All I ever did was race."

In 1988, a friend alerted Drabinsky to the fact that MCA, the entertainment conglomerate, which owned Universal Studios, wanted to acquire a cinema on their lot. He flew in, indicated their plan as "mediocrity" and presented a showcase. In the process, he charmed MCA president Sidney Sheinberg, to whom he turned out to be distinctly related. Sheinberg says that Drabinsky also had also played master in the earlier Steve Spielberg, saw himself in the break Canadian upstart with the big dreams. "There was an affinity," Drabinsky concedes, "no doubt about it."

Sheinberg introduced Drabinsky to his own boss, MCA chairman Lew Wasserman, then considered the most powerful man in Hollywood. A one-time talent agent, he had helped capture the attention of his former classmate Ronald Reagan, to the White House. When Wasserman offered to invest in Cineplex, Drabinsky leaped at the prospect of capital and cash. At the time, he says, "All my film buyers thought I was out of my mind. They said 'You'll get killed.'"

But Drabinsky was confident he could play at the big leagues. When Cineplex had taken over half of Toronto's largest Six theaters, he

Planning sets for *Show Boat* in New York taking in 25 per cent of the commercial live theatre receipts in North America

'I wasn't going to kowtow to MCA—and they didn't like it'

constructed a deal with him and Paramount Pictures' portion of the building, giving Paramount Pictures access to the main entrance—and effectively forcing its cinema to close. And he had set his deadline to move into the building into the Postings by calling an architect Marco Musso to bid him out with drywall. "Marco came in our spaces when nobody else could produce," says Gottlieb. "Marco was down there with Garth in the middle of the night with truckloads of drywall coming in."

For two years, Drabinsky's alliance with MCA seemed headed for a happy ending: he was even mentioned as Sheinberg's possible heir. But there were darker workings behind the scenes. Drabinsky had signed on as a partner in the studio's planned \$250-million bet on Orlando, Fla. But he began to talk when his share of the costs soared to \$94 million from \$65 million. "I put horrendous pressures on us," says Gottlieb. He blames the breakdown "would complain to us, but wouldn't take a position against MCA."

Meanwhile, MCA officials were putting increasing pressure on Drabinsky. When they

discovered that he had made a secret deal to buy out the *Shogun* interests, which would have given him majority control over their 50-per-cent voting rights, Sheinberg considered it a personal betrayal. And the war was on. The attempt by Gottlieb and Drabinsky to buy out MCA met with ever-increasing hurdles. For financing, they had turned to Safra and Eric Mads Development Corp., whose partners included Bratty, Daniels, DeLongis and Musso. "It wasn't that we couldn't get the money," says Safra, "but you didn't want to sell."

Drabinsky took the brutal power struggle down to a single sentence: "The fact of the matter is I wasn't going to kowtow to MCA—now or ever—and at some time they didn't like it." After the final, bitter showdown, the Cineplex-Orion board allowed him and Gottlieb to buy out the company's live entertainment division—a generic name they kept. Says Gottlieb: "We didn't exactly have time to drink up a new name on our way out the door."

For \$65 million, including their joint \$50-million ridea bondholders, they got the Playhouse Theatre and the Canadian rights to *The Passion of the Christ*. But they were left with a staggering back debt. In May, 1993, Levent went public with a successful \$30-million share offering, of which more than \$9 million went to pay down debt. And Gottlieb predicts that *Show Boat's* *Shogun* Toronto production will have recouped its costs by mid-1995 based on record advance sales. The *Shogun* version will have done the same before the end of next year.

When Drabinsky walked out of Cineplex, he admits, "It was tough going." But his mother had taught him never to complain. One former executive recalls planning him with creditors that day. "And Garth said, 'You know, the Eagles were my decade to mortal in the movie business. The Eagles will be my decade to do the same for live entertainment.' He was already on it the first day—no looking back."

On the night of his mother's funeral, Drabinsky addressed the *Passion* cast after the show. "I had to do it," he says. "I said we were all one family and we'd have to stick together." Some others had tears in their eyes. Others were more pained. "When he said we were all one family," remembers one, "there was a clear sense that he was the father—used that time as a position which would not be voided on." He had bought the show's rights after slipping into a back row of the London production during his darkest Cineplex days. He remembers being struck by the image of the tortured *Passion* group forced to survive behind a mask in the darkness because of his daughter. "The new image was a desperate, desperate struggle to get to the light. It was a transformation. 'I don't feel myself deformed,' he says quietly. "But I can write to these feel-



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1994



ings of weakness and vulnerability, because I've felt that."

Even last year, at the moment of his greatest triumph, when his only production of Hal Prince's *Run of the Spider Woman* won seven Tony awards, he felt those gangs again. Hauling himself up the stairs to receive the Tony far from meant, he agonized over whether the TV cameras were picking up his sweating progress. "Sweating? That's weird about crying—and so many people have to worry about that," he says. "People say they don't notice the legs, but I always notice. At the end of the day, you can't run to the bank and agree what you see in the mirror. There's no way you're going to eliminate that with any amount of wealth or power or anything else."

In 1987 the Montreal World Film Festival presented Drabinsky with a special "Romance Man of Film Award." And as his acceptance speech, he made clear he already saw himself in mythical terms. Putting his Canadian career "in direct line with the remarkable disappearances and battles" of the mythologies of ancient Greece, he lamented the lack of recognition for "the great conquerors." At the time, Drabinsky had to resist himself with obscure comic-book spoofs as his examples. But now, he can invoke more commanding role models: "When *Star Trek's* name was on a production, you knew something was going to happen," he says.

Today, as one of the few producers with the stomach for the high-profile stakes of a Broadway musical, others, too, are hauling him as a throwback to another, more profitable era. With TV series and \$600,000 to spend and other financing routes each week, *Star Trek* is one of the conflict producers in history. At the Minnesota state gala after its opening, James Blumenthal, son of Oscar, the musical's legendary cosetler, marvelled at Drabinsky's gamble. "It all shows again to be the same thing, does it?" he said. "But I'm surprised he's mounted such a large and bold production."

Star Trek's veteran director Hal Prince calls Drabinsky "a creative producer at a time when most people just come in with a lack of money. And he has taste." Not that Drabinsky's hands-on approach has not occasionally costed. "Greatest," he is sometimes a ball in a chain shop," Prince confides. "But I'm Hal Prince. He is smart enough to spot my volatility and move back." His admission was tagged when Drabinsky gambled on *Amos of the Spider Woman* at a time when New York critics had just savaged his directorial workshipped production. "Nobody in the U.S. would have gone for it," Prince says. "It was an act of great bravery and courage, and as far as I'm concerned, it made him a conqueror."

Now, Drabinsky has just won the rights to *Baggage*. "When you talk to people about your work, you can tell pretty quickly which city is livable," says in with a E. I. Dwyer. "And he passed the test." Not tall, Drabinsky will move *Star Trek* to Vancouver to open his

new Post Centre, and replace it with Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard*. Already, a year from its opening, he has begun the process of casting.

In fact, it is in his high-value marketing that Drabinsky has come to his mark on the theatrical scene. With his rivals, Ed and David Minsk, the producers of *Miss Saigon*, he has turned Toronto into the second-



Star Trek protest: Drabinsky filed a notice of claim against the province to make sure it "never happens again."

largest Theatre Industry Association of Canada named Drabinsky man of the year—an award presented last week at its annual convention in Vancouver by Prime Minister Jean Charest. But on Broadway, he has rolled around with his hands at companies a year ahead of a production and his arms in raising the top ticket price for *Star Trek* to \$75, currently the highest ticket price on Broadway.

"What Garth has done here is that he's kind of broken the mould," says Debe. "And a lot of people don't like it."

Drabinsky cracks his close experience with helping him make the profit possibilities of the theatre. He tries to control every aspect of a show, right down to the construction and ubiquitous souvenir stands, which last year costributed \$14 million—or 11 per cent of *Trek's* revenue. In fact, so innovative has his marketing been that, last year before his Toronto opening, when a group of black activists first protested that *Star Trek's* history story line was racist,

some cynics muttered that Drabinsky himself might be drumming up the controversy as a publicity stunt. But on the eve of the show's debut in New York—where there had not been a peep of protest—except for a new book on Ontario premier Bob Rae by Toronto *Star* columnist Thomas Walks, suddenly revealed that some officials from the provincial government's Audited Income Statement had secretly funnelled \$200,000 to groups behind the *Canadian Star Trek* show.

Rae has dismissed the report as "just speculation." But within days of its release, Drabinsky had filed a notice of claim against the province. In the course of the controversy, he had found himself an infinitely reversed champion of freedom of expression—and the target of posters with anti-Semitic placards outside his house. "The shocking thing is that the funds would be used to promote *Star Trek*," he says. "It's just a grotesque example of a government out of control. And our intent is to make sure such a thing never happens again."

Clearly, Drabinsky is relishing the prospect of the fight. For a man with a disconcerting air of success on his hands, the suit seems to offer a welcome new battleground. Already, his efficient public relations man, Donna Kucharsky, seems to be suggesting that Garth Drabinsky seek himself in a new view—the stage drama from *Star Trek's* launch.

"Did you see him on TV talking about the suit?" Kucharsky asked. "He was talking real quiet—sure at the Club Harbour in Dory Ferry." □

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The Oldsmobile Gang

Car-stealing teens wreak havoc in Regina

Deane Crall hasn't broken one, a broken jaw, a cracked skull, a broken shoulder and a crushed pelvis. And she is just beginning to get some feeling back in her right arm. The 16-year-old Regina nursing aid and nursing student was home alone with a colleague in early September when their car was hit head-on by a stolen Oldsmobile Custom Coupe. "I'm beyond angry," says Crall's husband. Available only managers their household between visits to the hospital. The car that hit Crall was one of 1,000 stolen in Regina in the first nine months of this year, a 40 percent jump over 1993. And police attribute most of that increase to a loose group of car-stealing, joyriding teenagers who call themselves the Oldsmobile Gang in honor of their favorite target.

Considering the number of stolen vehicles, says Regina police Staff Sgt. Garry Hodel, "we're fortunate that only five people have been injured."

While the mix of car theft has been increasing gradually across Canada, it has been particularly troubling in the Saskatchewan capital. Unlike many agribased automobile magnets, which ship down cars to resell their parts, Regina's Oldsmobile Gang members are more intent on joyriding. While their chosen play street hockey or video games, they break into cars and tear up and down residential streets, forcing police into the occasional high-speed chase—a particularly favored gang activity.

Hodel says that the gang started in early 1994 with a core of about 15 teenagers aged 14 to 18 and is growing with copied criminals, many of them joining Oldsmobiles and other General Motors products. "They learn from each other how to steal that kind of car," explains Hodel. "They're all as nice as me, a speaker car thief, some others like a status thing and a sense of superiority."

But anything can also be a destructive activity. On Sept. 1, for example, police responded to two separate reports of stolen cars dragging and plowing a host of vehicles off a downtown street in residential neighborhood. When police arrived, they found the stolen vehicles and a number of parked cars in need of insurance, at least one and less than a year old. The culprit had died on foot.

So far this year, Regina police have laid 82 auto-theft charges against adults and 251 against youths (several charges are often laid against a single individual). Among the first group arrested last April was a 14-year-old boy later convicted of stealing 18 cars and causing \$80,000 in damage. He was sentenced in June to eight months' open custody at a group home, plus one year's probation. He is among five cases that the prosecution is now appealing to a bid for tougher sentences.

According to police, some of the arrested



Kid of the joystick: tearing up and down, forcing police into occasional high-speed chases

teen have come from middle-income families that most are from lower-income homes and have grown up knowing hardship. And disturbed life experiences may play a part in their behavior, says Bob Moore, a University of Regina psychologist. "They will pressure their parents for the cause," Moore notes. "But society can't say, 'If you break a certain rule, we'll provide you a good job and enough money to buy your own Oldsmobile.' I suspect that, for me, they really have nothing to lose." The gang's activities also have an element of thrill-seeking. "It's extremely exciting," Moore says.

"There is the danger of getting caught by the police, the danger of getting in trouble with their parents, there is the physical danger of

a collision. For many, it is probably the most exciting thing they will ever do."

Although the growing in car thefts has created considerable attention in Regina (this year), as a city of passage it is not an entirely new phenomenon. At a local court as a Regina shopping mall recently, two young adults who identified themselves only as Charles and Gus said they both stole their first cars when they were 14. "The only reason I took it was to get home," moans Charles, now 20, of his first auto theft. "I was at a party and I got ditched and it was during the winter—and the keys were on it." Over the next few years, he stole seven more cars, each for a different reason. And Charles, who calls the Young Oldsmobile Act "a job," says he never heard the consequences—"I know I'll get sent to a shop on the west." He says that car stealing can once he turned 18 and was able to live peacefully in a stolen coupe. He drove, Gus, now 20, says he did get caught after stealing his car and was sentenced as a young adult to six months' probation and 90 hours of community



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BOOKS

Toying with minds

THE MONKEY PUZZLE TREE
By Elizabeth Nickson
(Knopf Canada, \$17, pages, 327)

Fiction, it is said, can express a kind of truth beyond the reach of facts, no matter how carefully they are researched. The conventions of reporting, then, that even when writers thoroughly envelope and subsume their subjects' emotional responses, they still cannot offer minor monologues or vividly evoke an emotional state. Which leads some confidant authors to use novelistic techniques to convey the emotional truth of real-life stories, and to tell their stories in a way that is not novelistic. That is how Truman Capote came to produce *In Cold Blood*, and what prompted Elizabeth Nickson to write her first novel, *The Monkey Puzzle Tree*.

Nickson's work deals with a staggering atrocity: the American CIA's mind-control experiments at McGeorge's Allan Memorial Institute during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1957,

a group of Cold War-era brain trusters in the private behavior-modification techniques developed at the Soviet Union and North Korea using psychiatric patients at the Allan Memorial subjects. In 1970, some of the patients involved in these experiments filed a public-interest lawsuit seeking damages for having lost their brains. Taped with Anne Calhoun's 1988 nonfiction work, *In The Sleep Room*, tells the story particularly and effectively. But Nickson, whose own mother was a victim of the program, opted for fiction in her desire to explore the human wreckage that it left.

Canadian-born Nickson, formerly a writer for *Time* and *Life* and now a freelance based in Bermuda, brings a keen eye for telling detail and a grace with the language to her story of Victoria Barrow, a fictional patient of the real-life Dr. Ewen Cameron. Focused by

the CIA, Cameron headed the mind-control study, searching patients' brains with cortical stimulating devices at 150 and then brainwashing them. After several short stays at the Allan Memorial, where she has sought help for depression, Victoria struggles to convince being a mother to three children and to hold a fractured life together, while rebuilding her shattered psyche.

Nickson tells Victoria's story from the point of view of her daughter, Catherine. And because the author has opted for the freedom of fiction, she is able to intricately explore the emotional and moral repercussions of Victoria's ordeal—the complex dynamics within the family, the bonds between mother and daughter, the brutality of the evil embedded by the Allan program.

A novelist
recounts the
scandal at
Allan Memorial

Initially, Catherine's narration has a somewhat stilted, service-dispatch efficiency. But her voice becomes increasingly tender and poetic as the story moves deeper into the character's emotional lives. The novel ends with the plaintiff's over-the-top legal victory after 11 years of official denial and costly courtroom maneuvering. That they have won at all is a ringing victory; that they had to fight is an irrefutable tragedy.

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Opening-night jitters

Journal of Interpersonal Violence 28(10)

Ye Olde New Age

Laughter over irrigation gives way to irritation

THE ROAD TO WELLVILLE
Directed by Alan Parker

He was the Duke who invented the sorbitate Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, a Seventh Day Adventist, was an American health guru who presided over vegetarian, chastity and robotic irrigation in the late 19th century. Kellogg's famed Michigan's legendary Battle Creek Sanatorium, which became a theme park in a nation longing for health (oh, now, is *The Road to Wellville*, based on T. Coraghessan Boyle's 1990 novel, British writer-director Alan Parker makes Kellogg and his spa the subject of a slapstick farce. As an excursion in *Ye Olde New Age*, it is less for a while. The script is decked with Kellogg's wild apocryphs—"No erosion is a fissure upon your groin!" But once the novelty of quick cures and bizarre contraptions wears off, the movie becomes a satire of dumb gags about morning splitting, defecation and bladder control.

Not remarkably, at the centre of it all is



Hopkins (left), Brockmire: too many dumb gags

the dignified Anthony Hopkins, who seems to be trying desperately to compensate for playing reformed Englishness. As Kellogg, Hopkins is unrecognizable. With a gruff, back tooth and a Southern-fried accent, he is a cross between Theodore Roosevelt and Bugs Bunny. The actor acquires himself well, making the most of such lines as "My shocks are gigantic and have no spin other than a lock kinetic." But even he cannot

resuscitate Wellville's sagging script. The comic story focuses on (Jesse and Will Lightbody) (Dustin Diamond and Bridget Fonda), Will, who suffers from gross digestive problems, is subjected to a steady diet of castor oil, laxatives, weekly enemas. Required to sleep apart from his wife at the spa, he becomes fixated on his comely nurse (Tina Lind) and a feisty pale patient across the hall (Jana Papis) (Katie). His wife, meanwhile, makes erotic therapy with a British doctor (Colin Hanks) and a German "wrench master". In a tangential subplot, John Cusack plays an entrepreneur who tries to turn a profitable manufacturing scheme. He recruits Kellogg's derelict adopted son, George (reprising David Caruso), who provides only a passing look to the main story. The actor who seems most comfortable in Parker's over-aged world is John Neville, cast as an eccentric who goes a sexual change from electrical beds. As a director, Parker (Massacre) (Beverly Hills Cop) seems well-versed to co-own—as Oliver Stone with nothing to say. With Wellville, he has acquiesced a rich comic recipe by turning the ingredients to a crisp. The result: true to Kellogg's legacy, is pure corn.

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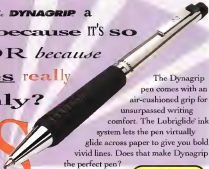
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New, Clayton is moving on to larger roles. As a recharge musician in *White Noise*,

Maury Chaykin has moved from memorable minor roles to prominent parts in several new movies

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., to an American father and a Canadian mother, Charlton worked both sides of the business. But the 45-year-old actor lived and worked in Toronto since 1974, when he was drawn to the city's experimental theatre scene. Since then, he has carved out an impressive niche in the Hollywood cinema world, but it is in Canada that he has done his most ambitious and original work. As the shaggy cop who saves the world in the title role of Canada's *Southside*, *The Sign of Mel C.* (Rialto), Charlton brought the 1982 TV movie, *Charlton* compared up a chilling masterpiece with the questing of *Quadrant* in *Van Strien's* *Child Country* (1989). He was really confident in a movie's low-budget director who didn't

Last month, just before leaving for Clayton, we went to see him in his new home and talked about his experiences. Toronto-based film ex-

A close-up photograph of a person's torso wearing a dark-colored shirt with a complex, light-colored geometric and tribal pattern. The pattern includes various shapes like triangles, diamonds, and zig-zags. The person's hands are partially visible at the bottom of the frame.

The artist, sent from *Whale Music*—he brings an answering edge to whatever character he plays, including the rock 'n' roll recluse who falls away as his masterpiece—a symbol for what

came largely from my desire to board pianists." The younger of two sons, he came from an affluent household. His father, Irving, was a prominent professor in accounting theory, and his Montreal-born mother, Clara, was a nurse. Chaykin got his first taste of acting in high school when he ap-

The actor's own dark-skinned edge now serves him a very good friend. After *Kevin Costner* says in *Cold Mountain*, he could have been talking about *Waters*. With *Waters* as a role that seems tailor made for him, Chaykin goes to play both actors' eccentricity and its vulnerable side. Whatever the role, Chaykin can be counted on to give it an dangerous, off-kilter quality. "When I come onto a set," he says, "the reason they're hired me is to bring that sensuality to the screen." But then his adds, with a mischievous laugh, "most of his most perverse characters are women." *Waters* is a man, which is something that a role and I know they hate it." That intimate scene with the pappies, after all, never did the job of day. □

Beauty and a beached Beast

On face value, it seems a tad retrograde—a romantic fable in which a list, shoreless swash-buckler star who lives like a hermit is redeemed by a slinky *Monde* half his age who seduces him, cooks for him, cleans up after him, shares his bed and inspires him to finish his masterpiece, a symphony for whales. Fortunately, however, *Whale Man's* rendition of the ur-mythic fantasy is not as naïve as it first appears.

Woody Chagrin is suitably cast as Desmond. While *Massie's* whale-watching rancher who has been holed up in a dilapidated West Coast mansion since his brother's not-so-broke broke up their band. Feeding on junk food, Desmond lives in a bathrobe and boxer shorts, shuffling between his home recording studio and a seamy swimming pool, where he can

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a black bikini, is crouching on a blue towel on a concrete ledge. She is looking down at a man who is in the water, holding onto the edge of the pool. The man has dark hair and a beard, and is looking up at the woman. The background shows a stone wall and some foliage.

The musical's wincey whiten One day, an abandoned young runaway named Claude (Tyler Posey) sneaks into his house and takes up residence. Gradually, she helps him piece his life back together and face his demons, who include an embittered ex-wife (Jennifer Wahl), a vengeful music executive (Kenneth Durbin) and the persistent ghost of Desmond's brother (Paul Giamatti).

his feature debut. And the whole music crowd at the movie by the Rheinhorns is wonderfully apt—it sounds like Pink Floyd on Prozac.

Chaylita and Preston, carefree, are a treat. They spend much of the movie bull-dozing—in his bedroom, she is a bikini—yet physically they must be one of the oddest couples ever to grace a romantic-comedy Chaylita is the brassy, show-biz-loving Bessie, with a sly wit lurking behind the eyes. Preston is the circumventer Benny, underdog and the character's severity with a kind acceptance. And together, as White Mania's whimsical metaphor, they find room to drink.

M. D. J.



Unsuitable behavior in Manhattan

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

As New York is the sublime, Cries all, blue skies, a warming sun, the yellow taxis—and danger. Danger, usually, lurks everywhere. In the subway, in Central Park, at any place after dark, even in reading the newspapers that detail yesterday's robberies, muggings and assassinations.

There is only one danger that is more vile. It is not wearing the New York uniform. Any male visitor, say male tourist, is easily identifiable. The natives can spot him a half-block away. He is looked upon as if he were wearing a kilt, or possibly a leotard. He is not wearing the New York uniform.

The New York uniform is a dark suit and a white shirt. Anyone who wears anything else is regarded—understandably—as an outsider. In Newfoundland, they have an easy manner: anyone who is not a Newbie is "from away." That's the way they separate the sheep from the goats.

In Manhattan they have an even more simple marker. If you don't put a dark suit and a white shirt, you're outa here.

Your humble scribe, admittedly, has made a serious mistake. He has ventured into the canyons of Manhattan wearing a suit of light blue that dark. I am told it is described as a blue check. Definitely not dark. Golly, suppose it could be described. This was a mistake, a serious gaffe never to be repeated.

Joyce Davidson, my way recall, was a celebrated CBC personality and interviewer whose life and career were changed because she did something unusual. She told the lovely Queen on U.S. TV on the Today show hosted by Dave Garroway about the impending visit of an English Queen to Canada, she remarked offhandedly that she thought most Canadians weren't all that much interested any more.

There was such a flurry, not to mention fury, in this miniature little country—the rumpus in Question Period and all—that that she was dressed out-of-date in New York. It was there that she met David Sassik and we got back to the uniforms.

David Sassik was the pre-eminent TV



producer and Manhattan impresario of his day. While he was wearing Joyce, she noticed that on every date he wore a black suit and a white shirt. The same black suit, always with a white shirt. She thought this strange, because he was a millionaire.

Once wedded, Joyce (who now lives in Connecticut, David sadly died) looked in his closet and found 10 dark suits. He wore number 10 white shirts. The New York uniform.

Joyce, once into the marriage bed, took him out and introduced him to color and variety and for three straight years he made America's best-dressed list.

My friend Pay also falls this morning. Pay is now married to Bill, a former show-biz act in Venice while both were on the board of the Peggy Guggenheim Museum. Bill is the most American American I have ever met, since the last time I didn't die with Roman Bragins.

His towers above his chest. He has eyebrows that bristle like machine-guns. And a fat belly. He combes what little hair is left straight back. He shouts a lot at dinner. He reminds me of Dennis Hopper's most famous line: "Shut up, he reminded."

He has never had an opinion he cannot defend. To the death. On the street, I have no idea where he gets his money. He is completely compelling. And he wears, every night, every day, a dark suit and a white shirt. Pay, as mentioned, is completely amused by all this. She says that American men—in New York, it should be emphasized—wear a uniform as unique as in Italy. They all must dress the same way.

In London, men wear shirts of blinding colors and varieties that as other nations would define them as lookouts, or criminal sons. I haven't owned a white shirt since I was in high school. In New York, therefore, I am an idiot.

At a party, the editor of *Kinky Hair*—who happens to be Canadian—looks down on my suit and says: "I suppose up north you're regarded as a suitably dressed." He, at the moment, is gilded in a corduroy suit. But, it is dark in color.

Bill takes me to a restaurant. While chatting with his buddy the waiter, if he orders me to check it out. I stroll the clientele, and immediately detect negative body language. Every single male in the restaurant is wearing The Uniform. I am not. The color of my cuisine, apparently grey, masks an essence of hostility from the natives. There is an estimator allowed into the ambience. This indeed is dangerous—shall we say different?

It is all Bill's fault. We suspect he placed this with a message implied. If you're to intrude into the land of the stranger, dress like the stranger.

The Brits, as we know, conquered the world with history's best navy, anglicized their colonies and painted the map pink. Photographers make fun of the fact they introduced gin and cricket to India and dressed for dinner and all acted as if it was for a Not a Cowed horse.

Well, at least they dressed in a foreign land the way they like comfortable. They didn't take on the native garb. On the other hand, come to think of it, they left pruned only by The Uniform—worn at Oxford and in their clubs at The Mall.

America's elite in New York, which thought it was the British masters, is throwing it at Boston Harbor and rebelling against an English king, after all these years in a uniform more reminiscent of their London equivalents.

Excuse me. I have to go shopping.

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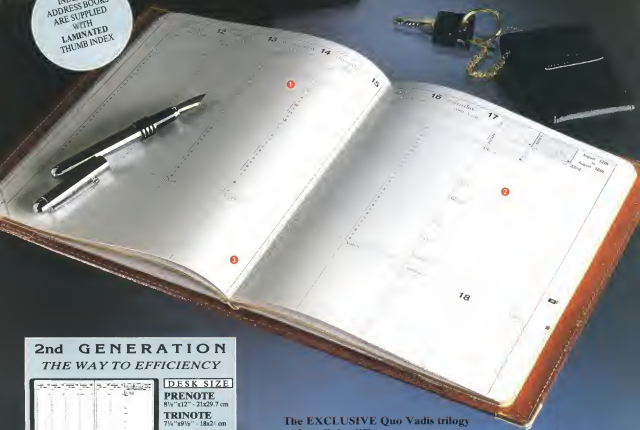
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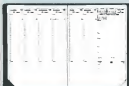
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